BIRD NOTES

VOL. III.

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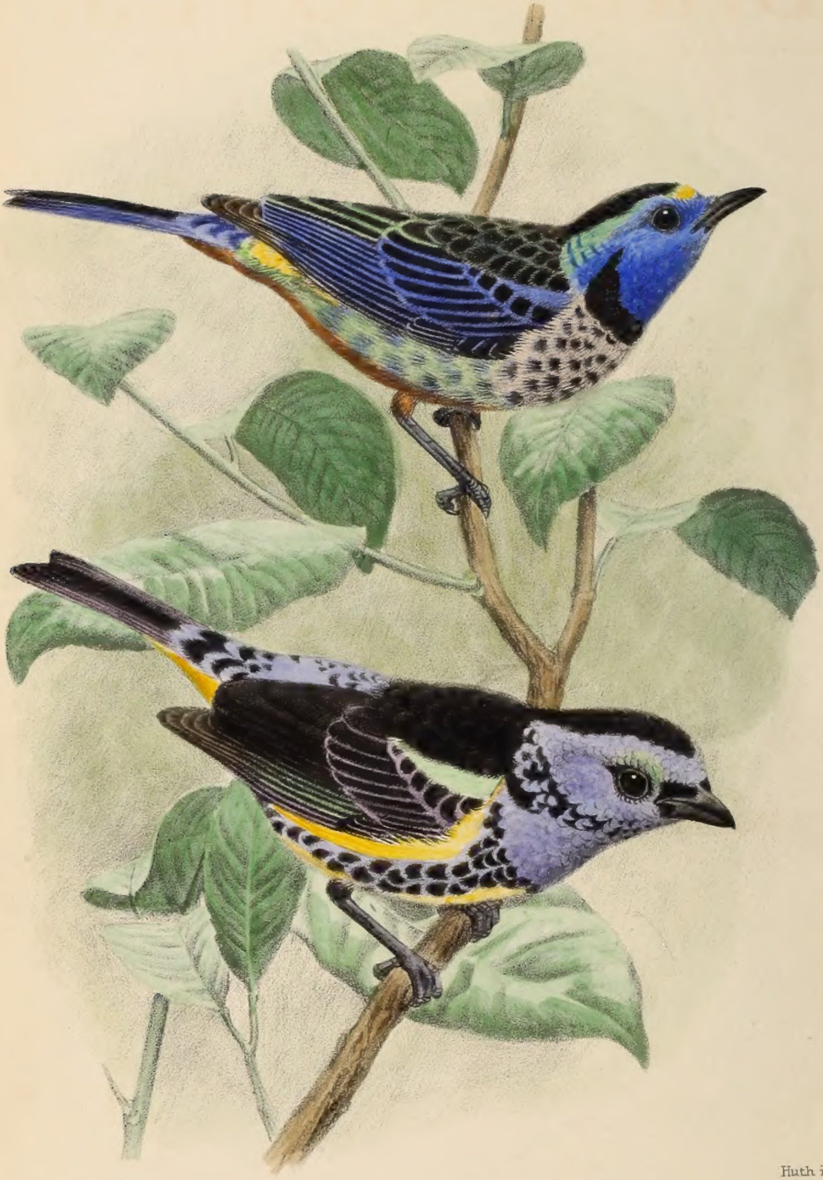

H. Goodchild, lith.

Huth imp.

BLUE & BLACK TANAGER.
Tanagrella cyanomelæna.
VIEILLOT'S TANAGER.
Calliste vieilloti.

From life by H. Goodchild from specimens owned by C.T. Maxwell Esq. & A. Sutcliffe Esq.

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BIRD-NOTES.

59.82:06 (42)

THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.
FOR THE STUDY OF ALL SPECIES OF BIRDS.
IN FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY.

VOLUME III.—NEW SERIES.

"By mutual confidence and mutual aid
Great deeds are done and great discoveries made."

EDITED BY
WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S, M.B.N.H.S.
AUTHOR OF "AVIARIES AND AVIARY LIFE," ETC.

ASHBOURNE:
THE AVIAN PRESS, MARKET PLACE.
1912.

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Inset .... Green Pages

ERRATA.

Owing to an unfortunate misunderstanding the birds referred to as "Red-sided Eclectus Parrots (*E. pectoralis*)" on pages 223, 303, 311, 338, and Green Inset page 71 ; are not that species, but should read Grand Eclectus (*E. roratus*).

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Foreign Birds.

By WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

(*Continued from Vol. II., N.S., page* 177).

SUB-FAMILY III. TANAGRINÆ.

This group, the typical Tanagers, consisting of some thirty-six genera and considerably over 200 species, includes nearly all the well known Tanagers and also very many which are quite new to aviculture, though most are represented in collections of skins. All are of gorgeous and iridescent plumage, not unduly difficult to keep, though only two species have, up to the present, reared young to maturity.

TREATMENT: Perhaps, as this series has been running some time, a few general remarks on food and treatment will not be out of place again here. The food item is not a difficult matter, but is somewhat troublesome if a number of specimens are kept in cages. A word of warning as to caged specimens, *do not overdo live food* with these: two or three insects per diem will keep them going in this respect. Soft food (Insectile) Mixture, ripe fruit, and insects, will about meet their requirements, with a little lettuce or other greenfood. I always supply milk sop, consisting of Nestle's Milk, boiling water, crumbled sponge-cake, Mellin's Food and a little honey, and am strongly of the opinion that they are the better for it, though some aviculturists do not include this in their menu. I must state that ripe fruit is by far the largest item in their daily menu, some individuals practically exist on fruit alone. The supply should be as varied as possible, and if they sulk at one kind, another must be at once offered. A varied supply is obtainable practically all the year round, such as soft apple, soft pear, grapes, banana, orange (tangerine for preference), strawberries, cherries, red currants; pomegranates, etc., almost any kind they will take may be given, but it should be fully ripe.

Newly imported species should always be caged separately for at least a fortnight or longer, until they are in condition, this resting period is also a quarantine period and a wise precaution against introducing infection to healthy stock. This period of rest, apart from the interference of their fellows, is of first importance, and its observance will save the life of many specimens. Observation also is necessary, especially with birds in cages, for I know of no family with more individualism as to taste, especially as to fruit, as the *Tanagrinæ*, their likes and dislikes must be studied—of course in the aviary a varied supply will meet the needs of all.

Mixed Series: I am not attempting to lay down any rule here, for it is impossible, as with individual cases there are so many qualifying conditions, viz., size of aviary, indoor or outdoor flight, breeding season, and the individualism of *respective pairs of the same species.* The aviarist, by observation must settle this point for him or her-self. Again, birds that will agree together in the winter in a crowd, will not do so in the summer when pairing and nesting operations commence. For instance, I have kept pairs of Black, Blue, Archbishop, and Maroon Tanagers together, in an aviary with a natural flight 29ft. x 24ft. x 12ft. high, and they have agreed, but they have not attempted to nest, had they done so the result may have been different; still in a neighbouring aviary, Blue, Scarlet, Superb, Tricolour, and Pietre's Tanagers have been kept together, the Blues and Scarlets have nested and one young Blue has been fully reared and the harmony has not been disturbed. The foregoing will act as a guide but, each aviarist must test his own birds and be guided by their demeanour. With birds in cages, the case is simpler, but the same care must be used.

Keeping Out of Doors: This is an open question, opinions differ much, most certainly many of the genus *Tanagra* and some of the *Calliste* may be so kept, but the latter genus is a large and variable one and some species will certainly succumb if subjected to the outdoor treatment —by outdoor treatment is inferred accommodation as follows: Flight for exercise, and a well lighted and weather-proof shed, in which they are shut at night during the winter months, and also, during the day-time, also during exceptionally severe periods, though artificial heat is not required. In this respect also, observation is called for and the birds must be studied--the thoughtful and observing aviculturist is the successful one. With such present failures become the stepping-stones to future success, for cause and effect become ultimately apparent. For instance: it is folly, nay, cruelty, to leave a bird out of doors that is out of tone at the commencement of the winter; to make myself quite clear I will state a case. A Magpie Mannikin in this instance (I have had the same occur with species of *Sturnidæ* and *Turdidæ*, but not with Tanagers so far, had already been out of doors for three years, but in the October of the fourth year, it was picked up in a weak condition, it was revived and put with other birds in an indoor flight, and as it was not thoroughly fit again till early December, it was kept indoors for that winter, though the birdroom was an unheated one. It was put out in the following spring and then left out altogether again and had been in my possession nearly nine years when it died. In describing the various species, I will indicate such species as have been successfully kept out of doors, either in my own aviaries, or of cases which have come under my own observation in other aviaries—only using, such instances where the bird's have been in their owner's possession two or more years.

Choosing Your Birds: A healthy bird is of more importance than an unhealthy one in good feather, thus when making a purchase, do not let excellence of plumage be the sole guide; choose an alert perky bird, with a clear eye, handle it and see that it has not been wasting away—in such cases the breast bone is only covered with a little skin, and appears to have a very sharp (knife) edge; reject such at once, however fine and sleek its plumage may be, nevertheless with all one's care some annoying and expensive losses are unavoidable with newly imported specimens, yet once the *Tanagrinæ* have got over the critical period of the first few weeks in this country, the majority of them are fairly long-lived birds.

With this, somewhat lengthy digression, which members' queries have called forth, I will now proceed with the genera of this sub-family.

TANAGRELLA: This consists of four species, viz., *velia, iridina, cyanomelaena, and calophrys*; only one of these is, I think known to British aviculture, and irrespective of its proper order, I shall describe that first, more especially so, as it is figured on our coloured frontispiece.

THE BLUE AND BLACK TANAGER (*Tanagrella cyanomelaena*). A glance at our coloured plate will at once illustrate the great beauty of this species; the specimen from which Mr. Goodchild prepared the plate was first exhibited by Mr. Maxwell at the L.C.B.A. Show, of 1910, since then it has passed into other hands, and was exhibited by Lady H. Pilkington, at the recent L.C.B.A. Show, and she still possesses this fine and rare specimen. I think this is the first living specimen to reach this country, and at present I know of no other.

It is a native of S.E. Brazil, and the female is said to resemble the male.

The following descriptive notes were made at the recent L.C.B.A. Show:

The upper surface is principally glossy, velvety black; front, sides of head, margins of outer webs of wings and tail-feathers bright blue; top of head and lower back pale iridescent silvery green; the lower surface is shining greyish-blue; throat bright blue; irregular collar of black encircling neck; middle of abdomen and ventral region ruddy-chestnut; bill black; feet deep brownish-black. Total length 5½ inches, tail 2¼.

Mr. Goodchild's fine drawing makes further comment unnecessary, but we hope Lady Pilkington will send in a few notes of the demeanour, etc., of this rare and beautiful species.

(*To be continued*).

Nesting of the Black-headed Siskin.

(*Chrysomitris icterica*).

BY W. E. TESCHEMAKER, B.A.

THE PROLOGUE.

Of a beautiful family this is, to my mind, quite one of the most charming members. Of course there are many aviculturists who take no interest in any species which is not expensive and difficult to procure and these no doubt would very much sooner own a Hooded Siskin (*C. cucullata*), but there are still a few of us who value a bird for what it is—not for what fashion or the artistic (?) perception of the cage-bird specialist pronounces it to be worth. Black and golden-yellow convey to the mind perhaps a something of barbaric splendour but there is nothing barbaric about the contrasted colours of this little bird,—nothing gaudy, no slobbing on of the colour with sensuous brush. The deep chrome of the breast and underparts is set off by the black of the head and throat; the yellow of the rump is relieved by dark shading of the lower half of the tail, and the blackish wings serve as a foil to the golden bar which crosses the base of the flights. When he is at home this little Siskin is to be found in the Argentine and Brazil. Here you may see him in small and scattered flocks flitting about the trees and gardens which surround the estancias, clinging to the thistle heads, and twittering tunefully very much as our Goldfinch does in this country.

Act I. Scene I.

But it is not in the brilliant sunshine of the Argentine that our little drama opens. No, we are in a great and smoky city on a gloomy December day. Through the narrow window of a small birdshop a little daylight sadly trickles. Huddled together in closely packed cages are ranged the quick and the dead; the atmosphere is not too salubrious. What are these three miserable little objects which look so black and funereal? "Never want to see any more of those Siskins," says the custodian of these dismal premises; "Wish you would take them away." We take them away.

Act I. Scene II.

Several days elapse. Two of our prisoners are dead and we trust that their spirit forms have flown to the "bright Elysian fields," for, life is life, and, where there is life, we hope there is no death. The last prisoner is evidently nearing the border-line; he buries his head beneath his wing as though he wished that the end might come quickly. We are sad too, and ask ourselves what is wrong with this little bird which eats and drinks and is not diseased, but is dying. An idea occurs to us. Why not try a mind-cure? We snatch up our prisoner and hurry him away to a tiny bird-house, designed to catch the first glimpse of the winter sun, where, in a temperature of 70 degrees, clumps of bamboos grow, and the Garden Warbler is singing. We set our prisoner unresisting on the perch of a large quarantine cage. At first he gazes wanly and wearily round, but, when his intelligence at length grasps the details of his surroundings, he seems almost paralysed by the startling suddenness of the change of scene. Once more he sees the golden sunlight and growing trees and birds flitting about and singing as they used to sing in the Argentine. Can these things be real or is it all a passing dream? And then a miracle! His throat swells and we hear a song the notes are weak and trembling, but it is a real song, I think we can all guess what that song meant. It was a paean of praise to the great Spirit of Nature – the Spirit of the sunlight and the wind, of the laughing rivers and the rustling trees – who for many days had forgotten this creature of the light and air and left it to languish in dark places but at last had taken thought of it. Need I tell you that our prisoner lived and is the hero of my story—the chief actor of our little drama?

ACT II.

The second act begins brightly but ends with tears; after all, so do most of the dramas of real life. In due course we obtained a hen Siskin – an acclimatised bird this time and turned them out in the large breeding aviary. It was June; the sky was blue, the trees were green. The Siskins flitted from one thistle-head to another and in the sunlight they looked like gleams of gold. As they clung to the flowering heads of the sow-thistles the stems swayed and bent, and sometimes broke, but the Siskins didn't care; it was June and the world seemed a very good place.

On the 24th June they were building a very neat little nest in the thickest part of a *Macrocarpa*, very deftly woven with moss and bents and lined with fine grass. On the 30th the hen was sitting on four rather large eggs, of a very pale blue colour. The male Siskin had hardly any time for singing now, he had to work hard, feeding his mate, who would never leave the nest, and driving off other birds.

On the 14th July two young Siskins hatched—tiny little things of a yellowish colour covered with sparse blackish down—and, as his mate still refused to leave the nest, the cock Siskin had to work harder than ever and at times looked a little weary and seemed to be asking himself if matrimony was really worth while. On the 24th, the young were fairly well feathered, green spots—the terminals of the secondary coverts—showing on the wings. On the 25th the dark tips of the primaries and primary coverts were unsheathed, the crown, the dorsal tract and a tract behind and parallel to the tibia were well covered; the centre of the chest was greenish, and the centre of abdomen yellow.

Every day it became more obvious that matters were not going well with the Siskin family. The female took no part whatever in feeding the young but from dawn to sunset called peevishly and incessantly to the male for food. On the 27th came the climax. The female left the nest and perched moping and evidently seriously ill in an apple tree; the nest, on examination proved to be a seething mass of red mite, and one of the young was dead. I removed it, applied Keating's powder liberally, and replaced the surviving yougster. On the following day, however, the female died, and was found to be covered with red mite from the beak to the end of the tail. The youngster was given a dust-bath in Keating, and then placed under a hen Canary, which was feeding a brood of four. Under these conditions it improved and showed some interesting and distinctive traits. One of these I particularly noted. When alarmed it would throw itself forward spread its wings to their fullest extent and, so to speak, flatten itself out. We all know how that strange freak, the collector, "sets up" an entomological specimen by running a pin through the body of his victim, spreading the wings and flattening them on a board; this is exactly what the young Siskin looked like when he assumed this remarkable pose. Though I think that we have all got "Mimicry" on the brain now-a-days and fancy that we detect protective resemblance in every department of Nature's workshop, nevertheless the resemblance of the rounded wings, when extended in this way, with their bright and contrasted scheme of colouring, to those of some tropical butterfly was so remarkable as to impress itself on the most casual observer. I will not venture any suggestion as to either the cause or effect of this curious pose but will content myself with pointing out that the conspicuous nestling-plumage was in this way made still more conspicuous. I have several times had cause to ask myself whether the nest-feathering is always, or even in the majority of cases, intended by Nature to be protective.

All would probably have gone well with the young Siskin in his new quarters had his owner not gone off at a tangent in quest of that long-sought remedy, a cure for red mite. Obviously no messy liquids, such as paraffin or solutions of creosote are of any use for applying to nests or nestlings, and powders do not seem to destroy this scourge of aviculture in its earlier stages of development. What is wanted is a liquid, very strong and very volatile, which can be applied quickly and removed quickly and completely. At last we hit on the right idea but the long series of experiments claimed two victims of that brood and one, I regret to say, was the youthful Siskin. I do not mention the remedy partly because I think that we lose half the interest of our hobby if we do not find a way out of difficulties for ourselves, and partly because, if our members can be persuaded to experiment on their own behalf, they will probably happen on something much better.

Thus of our erstwhile happy family only the founder was left, and he was moulting and grieving for the loss of his mate, and seemed likely to follow her into the land of shadows. However, I pointed out to him what a stupid little thing she was and how peevish, and cheered him up by promising to ransack the Matrimonial Agencies for an altogether superior type of feminine who would lend a hand in bringing up the bairns and never administer a curtain lecture, so he was ultimately consoled and throughout the long winter used to sing in the hot aviary every day and all day long.

The song of this species is not melodious but very bright and acceptable as it is heard in every month of the year; it is sustained but very hurried, and gives one the impression that the singer is trying to squeeze as many notes as possible into the bar.

I found an unhatched egg in the nest, which proved on examination to be lightly freckled with reddish spots and I have since seen another of the same type; it may be re-marked that, when a Serin normally lays unspotted eggs, there is frequently a spotted one in the clutch, and vice versa.

Act III.

The final act is a much brighter one in every way. Our hero, provided with a brand new partner, built a charming little nest last summer in a tall *Cupressus* within a few inches of the site already selected by a pair of Serin-finches. At first there was much squabbling and some pilfering of nest-materials, but at length, like sensible people, they settled down and each reared a family. In the early days of June the young Siskins flew. They much resembled the adult female, but the yellow on the breast was confined to the central line and, even at a little distance, they could be recognised by the absence of grey on the sides of the neck and face. The wings were blackish, the primaries margined with yellow, and the greater and lesser coverts with yellowish-buff; the beak light. The males began to sing at the age of six weeks but it was more than two months before they began to show sexual distinctions in the plumage by the appearance of one or two black feathers on the crown and chin. The assumption of the adult plumage was a very slow and gradual process, and, even by 1st December the area of black on the head, though clearly defined, still showed some inter-mixed greenish feathers.

The old pair brought off another brood in July and still another in September; then they passed from my hands into the care of a lady aviculturist, who is a genuine lover of birds. May they attain a green old age! (an eppropriate wish, I think, in view of the colour of the species).

Breeding of the Orange-headed Ground Thrush, Cuban Colin, etc.

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

ORANGE-HEADED GROUND THRUSH (*Geocichla citrina*). This beautiful species has been known to aviculture for quite a long period, and for many years one or more specimens have been on view at the London Zoological Gardens, but hitherto it has not successfully reared its young in captivity.

My birds have been in my aviaries for three years, and there has been more than one abortive attempt at reproducing their kind.

This year they have been more persistent, but did not achieve full success at their first attempt.

In May last my pair of Orange-headed Ground Thrushes constructed a nest, under the roof of the covered portion of their flight, the site chosen being the broad ledge of a nest-box which was fixed about 12 feet above ground level; moss was used as a foundation, it was very neatly put together, and lined with fine grass-stems. The clutch consisted of three eggs, pale blue, thickly blotched and spotted with rufous, especially so at the stouter ends.

Three young ones were duly hatched out, which throve for a week or ten days, when they were found dead on the ground at some distance from the nest—apparently they had died first and their bodies then removed by their parents. No other bird was observed to attack the nest, and I do not think any mouse did either, but American Robins may have been the culprits.

The young birds were well developed and just beginning to feather—pale buff could be seen on the breast at the tip of the quills. Their death was a great disappointment to me, but a keen aviculturist has many, and must be prepared for them.

Undeterred by the above misfortune, they immediately set to work and repaired the old nest, which I later found was firmly plastered on to the shelf of the nest-box—wet earth had been used and on the top of this the nest had been placed.

A good supply of ants' eggs, wasps' grubs, cockroaches, etc., enabled them to rear the one young bird which was duly hatched out. I believe it to be a female, as it has now fully moulted the nestling plumage. In the latter, the upper part of its head and shoulders were cinnamon brown; wings a much deeper brown with greenish tinge, and straw coloured spots to the tips of wing coverts, forming two bars across each wing. The cheeks, fawn-coloured variegated with a darker hue, the throat and whole under surface also fawn colour, with a dusky brown band (indistinct) across the breast.

These lovely Thrushes are fine songsters, but as with all species, some individuals are more talented than others.

Their great beauty, elegant form, and vocal powers, make them great favourites with all bird lovers.

The above young bird is the first to be reared in an English aviary.

The adult male has the head and underparts rich cinnamon-orange, while above it is blue-grey, two white bars cross each wing. The female has the head of a rather paler orange than that of her mate, and her back is greenish-grey.

Cuban Colin or Bobwhite (*Ortyx cubanensis*): I have also bred this beautiful Quail, unfortunately the hen died during a spell of chilly weather, after laying four-creamy-white eggs, which she placed in a hollow receptacle she had prepared in the midst of some long grass.

Fortunately I had a Bantam ready to put the eggs under, two of which duly hatched out.

These are now fully grown. When first hatched they were merely tiny balls of very dark brown fluff, but when about half grown they had the crown cinnamon-brown, upper parts dull brown, each feather of the back and wing coverts having a shaft streak, and a tip spot of the same colour; below pale fawn-colour.

This is the first time young of this species have been reared in the British Isles. A male and female.

The adult male has the chin and throat white, surrounded by a black band; top of head black; upperparts vinaceous-rufous-brown, more or less variegated, barred and mottled with black, rufous and greyish; chest black, variegated with dull rufous and white, remainder of under surface chestnut, irregularly margined with black and spotted with white on the sides. The female is spotted with black, whitish, and rufous, on the underparts. Total length 8 inches, tail 2¼.

Other results have been as under:

Ruddy-headed Bernicle Geese (Falkland Islands): This species rear young annually; this year young have again been fully reared.

Great Bustard: These nested and laid, but the eggs proved infertile.

Shamahs: These also nested and laid, but the eggs got destroyed before hatching.

Straw-necked Ibises: These birds got as far as eggs, but unfortunately, I kept other species of Ibis with them, which threw out their eggs.

AMERICAN ROBIN (*Turdus migratorius*): These nested, laid, and duly hatched out three young, which were doing well, but, at a week old they were killed by other occupants of the aviary; I suspect the the Orange-head Ground Thrushes.

GREY-WINGED OUZELS (*Merula boulboul*): From two nests, one only, a young male, has been reared to maturity—the second brood was destroyed.

STANLEY PARRAKEETS (*Platycercus icterotis*). These have again nested this season, and four young birds have been fully reared.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA PARRAKEETS (*S. alexandræ*): The doings of this species has proved most disappointing; several attempts, but no result—the one young bird hatched out was killed by some other Parrakeet when a fortnight old.

The rearing of a young Rose-breasted Grosbeak in my aviary this summer has already been recorded in *Bird Notes.*

Birds of Gambia.

By E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from Vol. II., N.S., page 342.

Haliaetus vocifer. VOCIFEROUS SEA-EAGLE.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L*).

This very handsome Eagle (usually known as the "Fish-Hawk" here) is a common and noteworthy inhabitant of our river. Anywhere along it they are to be seen nearly any day, generally in pairs, either circling in the air overhead or sitting motionless on the top of some dead tree near the bank. They feed largely on fish, and may frequently be seen wading quite deep into the water either in pursuit of their prey or to bathe. Besides fish they also like reptiles, various birds and small animals and do not disdain at times to share with Vultures, etc., the feast a dead cow or other beast provides. Their note is a loud piercing scream, quite one of the typical river-side sounds. They nest high up in some large tree, generally close to the water. Mandingo name, "Kuling-jango."

The three colours, black, white, and red-brown of their plumage are sharply defined one from the other and give these birds a most striking appearance. The head, neck, upper back, breast, and tail are pure white, the rest of the upper surface and the wing are a beautiful deep red-brown. Iris yellow; beak black, yellow at base; cere and legs yellow. Length 28 inches.

Aquila wahlbergi.

Range. Tropical Africa.

One occasionally sees a brown Eagle which may be this species.

Eutolmaetus bellicosus. MARTIAL EAGLE.

Range. South and East Africa, North to Shia, Abyssinia and Bogosland. (*H.L.*)

This large handsome Eagle is only a rare bird in the Gambia. I can only remember seeing three since I have been here, one of which, the female of a pair, I shot at McCarthy Island in January, 1906. Their general colour above is grey brown, the tail barred with darker and tipped with white; below white slightly spotted with brown. The head has a distinct blunt crest. Length 33 inches. Although rare here they are well known to the natives under the name of "Watta," and are reputed by them to be most blood-thirsty birds and very dangerous to sheep and young calves.

Spizaetus coronatus. CROWNED HAWK-EAGLE.

Range. South and West Africa. (*H.L.*)

Rare in the Gambia. A big crested Eagle, whose plumage is mostly black, washed on the neck and breast with brown, and with white edges to the crest feathers. Length 36 inches. The first example of this Eagle I met with was one which I saw at McCarthy (and identified with a glass) as it was attacking on the ground and endeavouring to carry off a large Monitor, a feat in which it was only interrupted by the arrival of my boys on the scene and their futile attempt to capture the pair while still engaged in the struggle. The only other one I have seen was caught in the Upper Gambia, and brought home this year (1910) by Mr. Fenwick Owen, to the Zoo, where it is now.

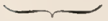
Lophoaetus occipitalis. BLACK CRESTED EAGLE.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

An almost wholly black (or in young birds a very dark brown) moderately sized Eagle with a long narrow crest, the only parts not black are four or five whitish cross-bars on the tail, a patch of white on the basal portion of the primaries and a brown wash over the under parts. The iris is brown, the beak black, the cere and legs a pale yellow. Length 23 inches. This Eagle is quite a common bird here, a pair or single individual is generally to be seen in every swamp perched on some low tree on the look-out for frogs, etc., which form their main food.

Helotarsus ecaudatus. BATALEUR EAGLE.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

The Bataleurs are very common here and nearly every day up country one may see one or more soaring and wheeling high overhead, when they are always easily recognisable at near range by their short tails and red legs, or when further off and merely black outlines against the clear sky, by their rolling flight and bracket-like shape , —a shape which always reminds me of Alice in Wonderland's "tea-tray in the sky." In the early mornings too one sometimes comes on a party of six or eight roosting altogether on some tree and making no attempt to rouse themselves till the sun is up. Their food consists mainly of rats and other small animals and reptiles, but they are also carrion-eaters as well. The head, face, neck and under parts are glossy black, the back, upper wing-coverts, rump, upper and under tail-coverts deep chestnut, quills, and lower wing-coverts dull black, iris brown, beak orange, shading into yellow anteriorly and tipped with black; cere and legs red. Length 23 inches. The young are altogether brown and have most of the feathers tipped with buff; in them, too the beak is brown and the legs a dirty yellow. Native names names are Bibo (Mandingo) and Jakhay (Joloff), both general names for any Eagle.

Buteo auguralis. AUGURAL BUZZARD.

Range. North-east to West Africa. (*H.L.*)

B. desertorum. DESERT BUZZARD.

Range. South and East Europe, India, Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

The ranges of these two Buzzards, as given in the Hand List, include the Gambia. I do not actually know them but I frequently see birds which I am pretty sure are Buzzards and I have recently shot one which I believe to be the first-named. This was shot at Sukuta on June 7, 1910. Its description is as follows: General colour above brown, the feathers tipped and mottled with lighter and having large white concealed bases; quills brown crossed by darker bars on the outer webs, white crossed by dark brown bars on the inner; tail, above alternate bars of light brown mottled with white and of dark brown, below cross-barred brownish white and dark brown. Below creamy white with a few dark marks, narrow on the throat, broader below; under tail-coverts white spotted with brown, under surface of flights barred with brown and white. The skin of the lores bluish and clothed with short soft black bristles; ear-coverts rufous brown Beak dark slate, iris burnt sienna, cere and legs yellow. Length 18½ inches. In the Buzzards the beak has no tooth and the tarsi have transverse scutellations in front and behind.

Circaetus cinerascens. *Range.* West Africa. (*H.L.*) Length of female 27.5 inches. (*B.M. Cat.*)

C. beaudoini. *Range.* Senegambia, North-east Africa. Length of female 32 inches. (*B.M. Cat.*)

C. cinereus. *Range.* Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*) Length 30 inches. (*B.M. Cat.*)

Dryotriorchis spectablis. *Range.* West Africa. (*H.L*).
A crested species; length 22.5 inches. (*B.M. Cat*).

Urotriorchis macrurus. *Range.* *West Africa.* (*H.L*).
Length 23 inches (*B.M. Cat.*)

These five species whose range should include the Gambia, I do not know at all and have no descriptions available to draw upon, so merely give their lengths as given in the British Museum Catalogue. One of them is probably the large dark grey-backed Eagle with slow flapping flight, which one sees here occasionally and which I always imagine is one of the Harrier-Eagles (*Circaetus*). Another Eagle, one of which I shot in 1905, may also be one of them. It was wholly dull brown with lemon-coloured legs and unfeathered tarsi. Length 24 inches.

Asturinula monogrammica. ONE-STREAKED HAWK.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

This small Hawk I think I have once or twice seen. It is grey above, darker on the rump, below white from chin to chest with a black streak down the centre of the chin and throat (its distinguishing feature), rest of under surface barred with grey. Length 15 inches.

Melierax polyzonus. MANY-BANDED GOSHAWK.

Range. North-east Africa, Soudan to Mogador and Senegambia. (*H.L*).

Another of the grey Hawks included in the general Mandingo name "Selingo." It is not uncommon in the Upper River Province, but I have never seen it anywhere nearer the sea. Above it is bluish grey, darker on the wings; the tail (which is comparatively long and by which one can generally recognise the bird when on the wing) is dark grey barred with brown above and below; the under surface is greyish white crossed by narrow bars. Iris brown, beak black. Cere and legs red. Length 20 inches.

(*To be Continued.*)

Mexican Ground Thrush.

(*Geocichla pinicola*).

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.,

A true pair of these birds which I received on the 12th of December are thoroughly Geocichline in their style, form, and demeanour, but very different in colour to their better known relative, the Orange-headed Ground Thrush of India (*G. citrina*). The Mexican Ground Thrush, which inhabits the higher pine forests of that country, nesting to a height of 8,000 feet, has a very pied appearance, the male having for his ground colour a deep umber brown on the upper parts, as well as on the throat and breast, the underparts being ashy white; and this latter colour variegates the wings after a Geocichline manner, as well as the final feathers, of the upper tail coverts, and the tips of the tail itself. The female is easily distinguished by being of a lighter and more spotted brown. In both sexes, the middles and shafts of the feathers on the head and shoulders are lighter than the outer portions. These Ground Thrushes are slightly smaller, I think, than the Orange-headed, and their heads are more finely built. The bills are dark grey, and the legs and feet pinkish. Very little seems to be known about this Thrush in its native haunts, and I have not had them long enough to be able to say whether the male is a good songster, but he probably is. Besides a soft "cluck," both sexes have a very pretty call-note, which perhaps resembles a railway guard's whistle blown softly, the note falling at the end. It is decidedly melodious, and unlike any other Thrush's note that I have heard. I have these birds in a cage as yet, and they are extremely steady and even inclined to be tame, which as they had only just arrived from Mexico, one would hardly have expected. This bird is also known as Ridgway's Ground Thrush. I imagine it to be, up till now, a rare importation.

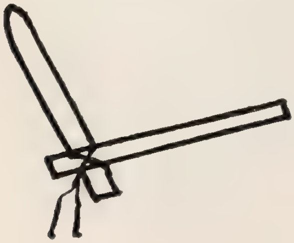
A fine coloured illustration is to be found in Vol. I. of Seebohm's magnificent work "The Monograph of the Turdidæ

Treatment for Fractured Leg.

By Dr. L. Lovell-Keays.

Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, of East Hoathley, Sussex, kindly sends the following notes.—Ed.

I thought the following notes on a case of fractured femur in a young Bullfinch, might be of interest. Mrs. Bonnick, a member of F.B.C., brought me about a month ago, a young Bullfinch with the right femur fractured immediately above the femerotibial articulation. I made a small "external angular splint," consisting of a short flat piece of soft wood about one inch long and three sixteenths broad; I also took a small wooden match, and made a kind of mortise joint with the two (see fig). I then fixed them at an angle of about 120 degrees, and securely bound them with black cotton as shown. Having thus prepared my splint I next firmly but gently held the bird and fixed the lower (match) end to the outside of leg with black cotton,



from the femerotibial articulation to just above the tibio-tarsal. The broader and flatter part of the splint was lightly bound with black cotton to the fleshy thigh. The task was not easy but by no means very difficult. The result was at once surprising; whereas before, the bird had great difficulty in balancing on the perch, and hopping about generally (the leg hanging down completely useless), as soon as the splint was affixed, the bird could hop and perch quite comfortably, and was not for ever banging the helpless limb against objects in the cage. The splint was kept on without any bother for nearly three weeks, I then removed the splint and found a very useful leg, although somewhat shortened (about one twelfth of an inch). To-day, (December 10th, 1911) a month after the accident, the bird behaves as if nothing were the matter and can fly and extend the leg and scratch the body when perching without difficulty. Surely one is amply repaid for any trouble taken.

The L.C.B.A. Show.

FOREIGN SECTION. BY W. T. PAGE, F.Z.S.

(*Continued from page* 333, *Vol. II., N.S.*)

After the introduction in December *Bird Notes* I will now deal with the various classes in detail

BUDGERIGARS, LOVEBIRDS, ETC.: This class does not call for special mention, the entrants, six (one absentee) all being in excellent form—Mr. Townsend's veteran Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot especially so, being a perfect blaze of colour, and not a feather out of place.

1 S. M. Townsend, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot; 2 J. C. W. Meadows, Black-cheeked Lovebirds; 3 J. Mackenzie, same; 4 and v.h.c. W. Edmunds, pairs of Yellow and Green Budgerigars.

ALL SPECIES PARRAKEETS (nine, one absentee): Here again good form was general, some of the species appear to have fared rather hardly. Mr. A. Ezra exhibited a beautiful lutino Ring-neck Parrakeet, a very rare exhibit and in beautiful form, clear yellow, and with pink eyes. M. Pauvvels' Uvean Parrakeet was in good trim, rare and not easy to keep fit in captivity, it is a beautiful species indeed, but rather dull in a cage (a coloured plate of this species appeared in *B.N.*, Vol. I., N.S., opposite p.241). Mrs. C. Cooper's Rock

Grass Parrakeet was another rare species; a closely allied species, the Elegant Grass Parrakeet was staged by Mr. C. T. Maxwell, and a very uncommon Blue-crowned Conure by Mr. Williams, jun. (see article in next issue). Another good exhibit was Mr. Edmund's Brown's Parrakeet.

1 W. Edmunds, Brown's Parrakeet; 2 C. T. Maxwell, Elegant Grass Parrakeet; 3 S. Williams, jun., Blue-crowned Conure, 4 R. Pauvvels, Uvean Parrakeet; V.H.C. A. Ezra, Lutino Ring-neck Parrakeet; Mrs. K. L. Miller, Blue-bonnet Parrakeet; Mrs. C. Cooper, Rock Grass Parrakeet; and C. T. Maxwell, White-winged Parrakeets.

Lorikeets and Lories: It was very disappointing that a special class for the Brush-tongued Parrots met with so small a response—only two entries! If the class is to be retained it must meet with a better response in future.

1 R. Pauvvels, Brown-throated Lorikeets; 2 J. Mackenzie, Ceram or Yellow-backed Lory (*L. flavo-palliatus*).

A.S. Parrots, Macaws and Cockatoos (five): Here again rarity received but little recognition. All the exhibits were in good form, but all have received previous notice in our pages.

1 and 2 Rev. G. H. Raynor, Everett's (*Tanygnathus everetti*) and Meyer's Parrots; 3 J. Ditchfield, Blue-fronted Amazon; 4 and v.h.c., Mrs. K. L. Miller, Hawk-headed Caique, and rare Ashy-fronted Amazon (*C. ochroptera*).

Common Named Waxbills, Etc. (22): I was pleased indeed to see so fine an entry, the best that has been seen for some years, and with one or two exceptions all in good form, some of them certainly the best seen of their kind.

1 and 3 R. J. Watts, Green Avadavats, and Gold-breasted Waxbills; 2 S. W. Beresford, Cordon Bleu; 4 G. Mortlock, Orange-cheeked Waxbills; V.H.C. S. Beaty, Combasous; Miss Smyth, Madagascar Weaver; C. H. Row, Gold-breasted Waxbills; F. Howe, same and Orange-cheeked Waxbills; and C. T. Maxwell, G. B. Waxbills; h.c. Rev. J. M. Paterson, Tri-coloured Mannikins; G. W. Leavers, Ribbon Finches; c. G. S. Woodcock, Java Sparrows; F. Howe, White-headed Mannikins and St. Helena Waxbills; A. C. Young, Cutthroats; J. Dewhurst, Cordon Bleu; R. J. Watts, same; and Col. J. J. Routh, Zebra Finches.

A beautiful series of the "Freely Imported Species," ably demonstrating what an exquisite series of birds may be kept, even if one does not go outside this group.

Waxbills, Weavers, Etc.: (12): Mostly in good form and all exquisitely beautiful species. There were two species of Melba Finches staged, Mr. Howe's specimen differing from the others, but, as I had no opportunity of comparing them with skins I do not care to venture upon a pronouncement as to the particular species. Beautiful specimens of Violet-eared, Blue-breasted and Crimson-winged Waxbills were also exhibited.

1 C. T. Maxwell, Violet-eared Waxbills; 2 and 3 F. Howe, Melba Finch, and Crimson Finch; 4 Col. J. J. Routh, Violet-eared Waxbills; v.h.c. J. C. W. Meadows, Aurora Finch; C. T. Maxwell, Blue breasted Waxbills; h.c., S. Beaty, Firefinch; c Miss St. A'Wait, Blue-breasted Waxbill; L. M. Wade, Magpie Mannikin; Colonel J. J. Routh, Melba Finches.

A.S. Grassfinches, Weavers, Etc. (17): This class contained a fine series of birds, practically all in grand form and exquisitely beautiful. The rarest bird in the class being Mr. Maxwell's beautiful Jackson's Whydah (vide *B.N.*, Vol. II. p. 300), it is a grand species and most interesting in its deportment, even within the limits of a cage. Fire-tailed Finches, exquisite and uncommon, though known to aviculture for many years carried off first and second awards. A nice Scaly-crowned Finch was also exhibited.

1 W. R. Temple, and 2 C. H. Row, Fire-tailed Finches; 3 and 4 C. T. Maxwell, Jackson's Whydah, and Tri-coloured Parrot Finch; v.h.c. Miss Bousfield, Diamond Finches; C. H. Row, R. H. Gouldian Finch; F. Howe, Parrot Finch; J. Mackenzie, B. H. Gouldian Finch; J. M. Walsh, Scaly-crowned Finch, and R. J. Watts, Diamond Finches; h.c. S. Beaty, Red-headed Finch; A, G. Kyle, L. T. Grassfinches; A. C. Young Ruficauda Finches; C. T. Maxwell, Painted Finch; and Col. J. J. Routh, Ruficauda Finches; c. Dr. H. Hetley, Diamond Finch; and Col. J. J. Routh, Masked Finches.

A.S. Grosbeaks, True Finches, Etc. (14): Another extremely interesting class of extremely beautiful birds, the gem of which, Mrs. K. L. Miller's Rainbow Bunting was looking very sulky on the opening day, but soon brightened up and was in grand feather and colour. Another beautiful exhibit was Mr. Maxwell's Black-cheeked Cardinal (*P. nigrigenis*) and also his uncommon Colombian Siskin (*C. colombiana*); and M. Fauvvel's Black and Yellow Grosbeak (♀) were the more notable entrants. Among the others I note in passing Dr. Hetley's Nonpareil Buntings, slightly rough, but in almost full natural colour.

1 and 3 C. T. Maxwell, Colombian Siskin and Black-cheeked Cardinal; 2 Mrs. K. L. Miller, Rainbow Bunting; 4 J. M. Walsh, Green Cardinal; v.h.c. Dr. Hetley, Nonpareil Buntings; R. Pauvvels, Black and Yellow Grosbeak; h.c. Rev. J. Paterson, Green Singing Finches; B. C. Brears, Lavender Finch (this should have been wrong classed, its proper place being class 181); H. T. Gibbs, Pintail Nonpareil, and W. Andrews, Green Singing Finch.

Named Tanagers (5): A disappointing entry as to numbers, and nothing calling for special comment, all being well known species. Mr. Roger's Blue Tanager (Tobago sub-species), a beautiful, tightly feathered, and well coloured specimen. The other exhibits had evidently been colour-fed.

1 W. T. Rogers, Blue Tanager; 2 R. J. Watts, 3 C. T. Maxwell; 4 J. M. Walsh, Superb Tanagers.

All Other Tanagers (10): A grand series of gorgeous and beautiful birds, all running each other very close as to fitness. The four notable birds in the class being Mr. Townsend's Gold and Green, Mrs. Miller's Emerald-spotted, Mr. Walsh's Black-throated, and Lady Pilkington's Blue and Black (vide coloured plate in this issue). All the entries were more or less notable, but the above in the writer's opinion were pre-eminent; but all were a sight to feast the eyes upon.

1 S. M. Townsend, Gold and Green Tanager; 2 C. T. Maxwell, Pretre's Tanager; 3 Lady Pilkington, All Green Tanager; 4 Mrs. K. L. Miller, Emerald-spotted Tanager; v.h.c. Lady Pilkington, Blue and Black Tanager; J. M. Walsh, Black-throated Tanager, and C. T. Maxwell, Maroon Tanager; h.c. Hon. Mrs. Bcurke, Necklace Tanager; Miss V. Bromwich, Archbishop Tanager; c. C. T. Maxwell, Festive Tanager.

A.S. Sugarbirds, Sunbirds, Etc. (15): This class simply beggars description. It is simply hopeless to give even a sketchy description of Mr. Ezra's Amethyst-rumped Sunbird, truly a creature of the sun, its metallic, and bejewelled livery of many hues, flashing out a radiance of ever varying hue. The Hon. Mrs. Bourke's Purple Sugarbird in its beautiful setting of Yellow Orchids and exquisite plumage: Mr. Townend's rare *Dacnis*, the Palish-blue Sugarbird—one of the rarest birds in the show and a dainty gem in its garb of lustrous palish blue and velvety-black, much smaller than the well-known Blue Sugarbird. Of the others I can make only passing mention—Green Bulbuls (Fruitsuckers) were represented by three species, viz: Jerdon's (♀), Blue-winged (Hardwick's) and Gold-fronted, two species of White-eyes (*Zosterops*), Indian and African were staged in good condition and once more Mr. Townsend's veteran Yellow-winged Sugarbird appeared in its usual perfect "spic and span" condition.

1 A. Ezra, Amethyst-rumped Sunbird; 2 Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Purple Sugarbird; 3 C. T. Maxwell, Purple Sunbird; 4 S. M. Townsend, Yellow-winged Sugarbird; v.h.c. Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Purple Sunbird; C. T. Maxwell, Purple Sugarbird, Banana Quit (Black and Yellow Creeper), and Rufous-throated Sugarbird; S. M. Townsend, Jerdon's Green Bulbul; h.c. Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Blue Sugarbird; W. T. Rogers, G.F. Green Bulbul; C. T. Maxwell, African White-eyes; S. M. Townsend, Palish-Blue Sugarbird; c. Miss L. Clare, Indian White-eye; G. E. Rattigan; C. T. Maxwell, Blue-winged Green Bulbuls.

PEKIN ROBINS, JAYS, ETC. (8) : A class one would have expected to fill better, as it probably will another season, when the re-arranged classification is better known. All the exhibits were good, but only M. Pauvvel's Crowned Jays were rare and these were described and figured in our last issue.

1 R. Pauvvels, Crowned Jays (*Cyanocitta diademata*); 2 O. Puck, Shama; 3 W. A. Shepherd, Hill Mynah; 4 C. Cushney, Purple-headed Glossy Starling; v.h.c. D. Gollan, Pekin Robin (♀).

A.S. NOT COMPRISED IN THE ABOVE (24) : A truly grand array of birds, and one is in a dilemma how to deal with them in the compas of this report -one can barely be sketchy at the most. It is difficult here to single out any special bird, if any M. Pauvvel's Count Raggi's Bird of Paradise stood pre-emenient, this was a truly regal creature, very steady, and in spite of being continually "stared at" showed itself off continuously. The same owner's lovely Fairy Blue Bird (*Irena turcosa*) was another exquisite and rare bird of which we had a short description and photo in Vol. VIII of *Bird Notes*. A. Ezra and Mrs. Leslie Miller each exhibited specimens of Japanese Redbreasts and Loo-choo Robins, the latter is well known to readers, having been figured in colour and described by Mr. H. D. Astley in our last Vol. The former is quite new to aviculture and like all Robins captivates one at once; this charming species has much the same colour areas as our indigenous species, but the red is not so bright (carrot-red), and the under surface is darker (more grey) with the middle of abdomen sooty—it has all the charactistics that make the English Robin "so dear to English hearts." Another rare species was Mr. Miller's lovely Yellow-cheeked Hill-Tit (*Machlolophus xanthogenys*), this has been already noticed in our pages, as also has the Coppersmith Barbet (*Xantholæma haematocephala*), though this was new to the show bench; as also was Mr. Townsend's White-breasted Kingfisher (*Halcyon smyrnensis*) this is a lovely species clad in a lovely contrasty livery of rich chocolate, pure white and shining blue—it is largely a land feeder and not so difficult to cater for as some Kingfishers. Exquisite specimens of Verditer and Blue-throated Flycatchers and other fine and uncommon birds were also shown.

1 and 3 R. Pauvvels, Count Raggi's B. of P.; and Fairy Blue Bird; 2 Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, Japanese Redbreast; 4 C. T. Maxwell, Coppersmith Barbet; v.h.c. A. Ezra, Japanese Redbreast and Loo-choo Robin; T. Miller, Yellow-cheeked Hill-Tit; Mrs. K. L. Miller, Verditer Flycatchers and Loo-choo Robin; Miss V. Bromwich Blue-bearded Jays; J. M. Walsh, Wood-Swallow; S. M. Townsend, White-breasted Kingfisher; h.c. W.T. Rogers, Dusky Thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*) Miss V. Bromwich, Hauxwell's Hangnest; Mrs. Frostick, White-crested Jay-Thrush; C. T. Maxwell, Ruby-throat, and Blue-throated Flycatcher; c. Miss L. Clare, Silver-eared Mesia. Cuban Trogan, Indian Redstart, and Ruddy-shouldered Cowbird also competed.

Foreign Hybrids (3): M. Pauvvels carried off first prize with a most interesting Hybrid Tit, said to be a wild production, between Pleske's Tit (*Parus pleskei*) and Azure Tit (*P. cyanus*), the hybrid strongly resembles the latter. Roughly, Pleske's Tit may be described as a pale Blue Tit, the Azure is clear white, with blue wings and tail, the hybrid is a beautiful and captivating bird. Mrs. G. Troughton took second and third with specimens of hybrid Zebra Finch x Silverbill, apparently still in nestling plumage; they will be handsome birds after the moult.

Pairs for Hybrid Breeding (5):

1 and 3 C. T. Maxwell, Silver-eared Mesia and Blue-winged Siva—Common Firefinch and Vinaceous Firefinch; 2 W. R. Temple, Australian Fire-tailed Finch and Sydney Waxbill; 4 W. Lyle, B.H. Gouldian and Zebra Finches; v.h.c. Rev. J. Paterson, B.H. Nun and Chestnut-breasted Finch.

Open Selling Class (7):

1 C. T. Maxwell, Diamond Finch; 2 C. H. Row, Orange-

checked Waxbills; 3 F. Howe, Yellow Budgerigars; 4, v.h.c., and c. R. J. Watts, Combasou, Grey Waxbill, and Saffron Finch; c. C. T. Maxwell, Diamond Finch.

L.C.B.A. Members. Seed-eating (3):

1 R. Pauvvels, Red-rumped Weaver; 2 and 3 J. Dewhurst, Moustache Parrakeet and Amazon Parrot.

L.C.B.A. Members: Insect or Fruit-eating (7):

1 and 2 R. Pauvvels, very rare pair Orange-breasted Fruit Pigeons, and an uncommon White-winged Hangnest; 3 and v.h.c. J. Dewhurst, Coleys, Glossy Starlings, and Shama; c. T. Miller, American Robin, and Mrs. Maher, Rosy Pastor.

Open Specials:

A L.C.B.A. Diploma for best Foreign Bird, Seed Eating—C. T. Maxwell, Colombian Siskin.

A L.C.B.A. Diploma for best Foreign Bird, Insectivorous—A Ezra, Amethyst-rumped Sunbird.

A L.C.B.A. Diploma for Rarest Foreign Bird—R. Pauvvels, Fairy Blue Bird.

A L.C.B.A. Award of Merit for second best Seed Eating—Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, Rainbow Bunting.

A L.C.B.A. Award of Merit for second best Rarest Foreign Bird.—C. T. Maxwell, Blue-throated Flycatcher.

A L.C.B.A. Award of Merit for second best Insectivorous—Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Purple Sugarbird.

F.B.C. MEMBERS' SPECIALS.

Handsome Silver Cup for the most points gained at this Show for three nominated Birds (see rules) in Foreign Classes, to be won three times, not necessarily in succession, *vide* Rule 7. Most points for this show, R. Pauvvels.

Handsome Silver Medal for the Best Bird shown by a Member in Classes 176 to 179—S. M. Townsend, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot.

Handsome Silver Medal for the Best Bird shown by a Member in Classes 180, to 183—C. T. Maxwell, Violet-eared Waxbills

Handsome silver Medal for the best Bird shown by a Member in Classes 184 to 188—R. Pauvvels, Crowned Jays.

A Handsome Bronze Medal for the most entries by a Member in Class 178—Not awarded, no member made more than one entry.

A Handsome Bronze Medal for the most entries by a Member in Class 184—Not awarded, no member made more than one entry.

A Silver Medal or 5s. by T. Miller, Esq., for most points in Classes 176 to 179—Rev. G. H. Raynor.

A Silver Medal or 5s. by T. Miller, Esq., for most points in Classes 181 to 183—C. T. Maxwell.

L.C.B.A. Silver Medal for most points in Foreign Bird Classes—C. T. Maxwell.

L.C.B.A. Silver Medal for second most points—R. Pauvvels.

L.C.B.A. Silver Medal for third most points—Mrs. Miller.

Pair of Yellow Budgerigars, presented by H. W. Mathias, Esq., for most points obtained by a Member in Class 180—R. J. Watts.

Small Finch or Waxbill, presented by H. Willford, Esq., for the Best Exhibit in Class 181—C. T. Maxwell, Violet-eared Waxbills.

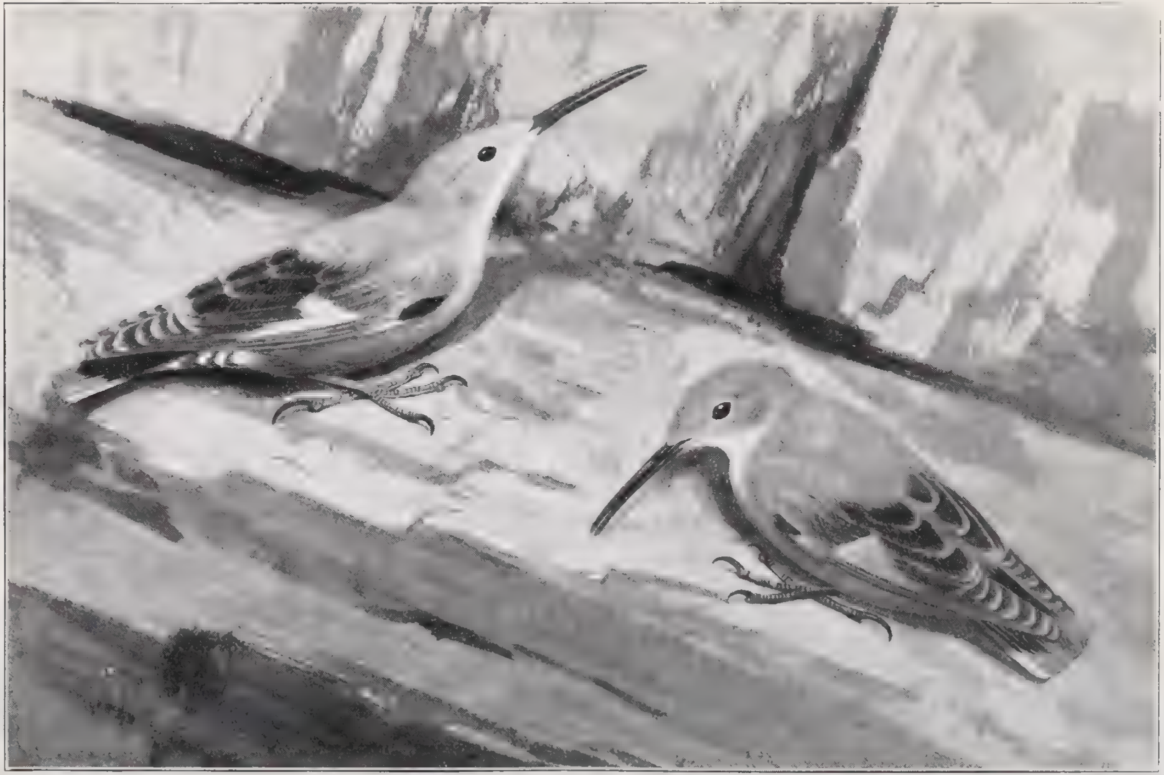
Half-a-crown, presented by Miss A. Smythe for the Best V.H.C. in classes 184, and 187—Not awarded; V.H.C. bird not belonging to a member.

I am fully aware of the shortcomings of the foregoing report, it is not full, but *sketchy* in the extreme. However, it is the best our space and my time will permit. The L.C.B.A. Exhibition of November, 1911, will undoubtedly long remain a "landmark," in the annals of Foreign Bird Exhibiting.

BRITISH BIRDS AND THEIR HYBRIDS.

By Allen Silver.

This year no less than 19 Goldfinches, 19 Bullfinches, 21 Siskins, 21 Linnets, 24 Greenfinches, 11 Chaffinches, 17 Lesser Redpolls, 10 Hawfinches, 10 Bramblefinches, were benched in excellent form at this show. Of Finch-like birds otherwise. Classes: 142 (Twite or Mealy Redpoll) contained 16 entries; 146 (Buntings) 7 entries (Corn, Cirl, Yellow, and Lapland competing); 147 (Crossbill, Hedge, Tree, and House Sparrows, and Tits (seven species) and Nuthatch, contained several interesting birds, 1st going to our Mr. J. Frostick's Nuthatch; 2nd to Mr. G. Rattigan's Long-tailed Tits; 3rd to Mr. G. Lawrence's Crossbill ,and 4th to Mr. E. Taylor's (unfortunate) Crested Tit, a good bird. Ten birds were entered in the Blackbird class, 7 in the Starling class, and 6 birds in that for Skylarks. Class 152 for Pipits, Wood and Shorelarks contained 10 entries. Rock, Tree, and Meadow Pipits, Wood and Shorelarks all competed, and the quality of the exhibits in almost every case was good. Curiously enough the classes for Song Thrushes and Wagtails had to be cancelled owing to lack of entries. Considering how common the former are as cage birds and how comparatively easy to keep are the latter, the shortage of entries proved, I think, a surprise to everyone. Class 153 (Blackcap and Nightingale) contained eight birds, premier honours going respectively 1st. to the Hon. Mrs. Bourke's Nightingale, benched in perfect trim; 2nd to Mr. Puck's Blackcap; and 3rd to Mr. Jackson's Nightingale other birds of both species competed. Class 154 contained quite a "covey" of Dartford Warblers no less than four being



From Life by H. Goodchild.

Wall Creepers (*Tichodroma muraria*).
Left figure (♂) right (♀).

shown. The Hon. Mrs. Bourke again carried off 1st in this class; 2nd going to Miss Bousfield's Waxwing; 3rd to Mr. Frostick's Dartford Warbler; 4th to Mr. Maxwell's Wryneck. In addition to these birds a Black Redstart and a Grasshopper Warbler was shown. Class 156 (Crows) contained nine entries, two being absent. Four good birds claimed leading places, respectively, Mr. P. McQuiston's Chough, Mrs. Lawrence's Magpie, Messrs. Bowles's Jay, and Mr. Askew's Jackdaw. Class 157 for other species on N.B.B. and M. Clubs, list proved an interesting collection of five species—1st Mr. Maxwell, with a Sedge Warbler; 2nd going to Mr. Jesse Magg's Willow Warbler; 3rd Mr. Puck's Greater Whitethroat; 4th Mr. John Frostick's Robin, and v.h.c. Mr. Taylor's Common Redstart. Class 158 for hen British Birds contained sixteen entries some good and interesting birds "showing up." Here again the Hon. Mrs. Bourke won 1st with a hen Dartford Warbler; the class otherwise contained a good hen Greater spotted Woodpecker (Mr. Dewhurst's) which won third, and the others were Bullfinches, a Ring Ouzel, Hawfinch, Greenfinch, Snow Bunting, Siskin; etc. Class 159 (for Pied Albino and Abnormally feathered species) proved one of the finest collections seen for years. First went to Mr. P. Walsh's Silver Starling; 2nd to Mr. Pinnell's Albino Blackbird; 3rd to Mr. Longland's exhibit of the same species; 4th, v.h.c., and h.c. to an interesting team shown by Mr. W. R. Temple, of Datchet (Albino Robin, Sparrow, and Blackbird, respectively). This gentleman also exhibited a nice Cinnamon and White Sparrow. Freak birds otherwise in the shape of pied and Albino Linnets, Robins, Sparrows, Bullfinch, and Skylark, were staged and generally speaking the condition and staging of most of them left little to be desired. Class 160 (European birds not on N.B.B. and M.C. List) proved interesting. Eight birds competed, 1st going to a beautiful pair of Wall Creepers, shown by Monsieur A. Pauvvels, of Belgium; Mr. Maxwell seems to have been the only exhibitor who has shown this species heretofore. The latter gentleman won second with a charming Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva* or *Siphia parva*) shown in perfect plumage, 3rd going to Mr. Dewhurst's Rosy Starling; 4th to Mr. Puck's Russian Goldfinch. A beautiful Two-barred Crossbill (*Loxia bifasciata*) of which *L. leucoptera is the American "form,"* was benched by Messrs. Martin and Archer, getting v.h.c., and the same owner's Ortalan Bunting was commended. In addition to these birds Mr. Rick showed an Icterine Warbler; Mr. Pauvvels a Snow Finch (*Montifringilla nivalis*) described in the catalogue as a "Sunfinch." The class for Hawks and Owls contained three entries, 1st going to Mr. Shepherd's Kestrel (*Cerchneis timmiculus*); 2nd to Mr. C. D. Carus Wilson's Tawny Owl (*Carine noctua*; a large bird of the "rufous" phase, and 3rd to a pretty Little Owl (*Carine noctua*). exhibited by Mr. Askew.

Members' and Novice Sections were well supported, and the Open

Hybrid Classes were as good as one could wish for. Canary crosses of the several varieties produced by the union of that bird to such species as Gold-finches, Linnets, Redpolls, Greenfinches, Siskins, Twites, etc., totalled in all 91 entries, many very beautiful and attractive birds competing. Bullfinch crosses made an excellent show of nine hens of this species to male Redpolls, Canaries, Goldfinches, Linnets, and Greenfinches, appearing. Class 134 for other crosses between two British Finches proved quite the attraction of the section. First went to Miss Reeve's Greenfinch-Chaffinch, a bird which was generally admired and claimed at the catalogue price of £10. This hybrid, the first and only specimen in existence was bred this year by its owner, being reared partly by a Great Tit and partly by hand. In size the bird is as large as the average Greenfinch, although a trifle longer. The bill, skull, and general contour is less "chubby," and the movements are active favouring the Chaffinch in this respect. Above it is principally greenish-brown; the rump is green, the sides of the face greyish, with sulphury superciliary streak, and face markings. Chin and abdomen, sulphury; throat, pale chestnut, merging into pale yellow on the chest. The outer edges of the primaries are sulphury and the whitish band across the wing (so conspicuous in a pine Chaffinch) is considerably obliterated in pattern. The tail looks like that of a Chaffinch, excepting that the pale edges of the outer retrices distinctly yellow. Mr. Longden, of Swansea, judged Finches; Mr. Cocks, of Peterborough, Insectivorous Birds; and Mr. Lamb, of New Malden, Hybrid Birds. Congratulations are due to the society on this occasion for giving the public an excellent treat in the shape of good birds in good numbers. No Goldcrests, Creepers, Whinchats, or Stonechats, were entered at this show.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Bird Life Through the Camera.

BY H. WILLFORD.

The Breeding of the Moorhen.

(Gallinuta chloropus, Linnaeus).

The Moorhen is the commonest of the Rails to be found in Great Britain, but I have not known many instances of its breeding in confinement, although it is an easy matter if a fair amount of space is provided together with plenty of cover.

Towards the end of 1910 I caught up three birds which later proved to be two cocks and a hen, and turned them

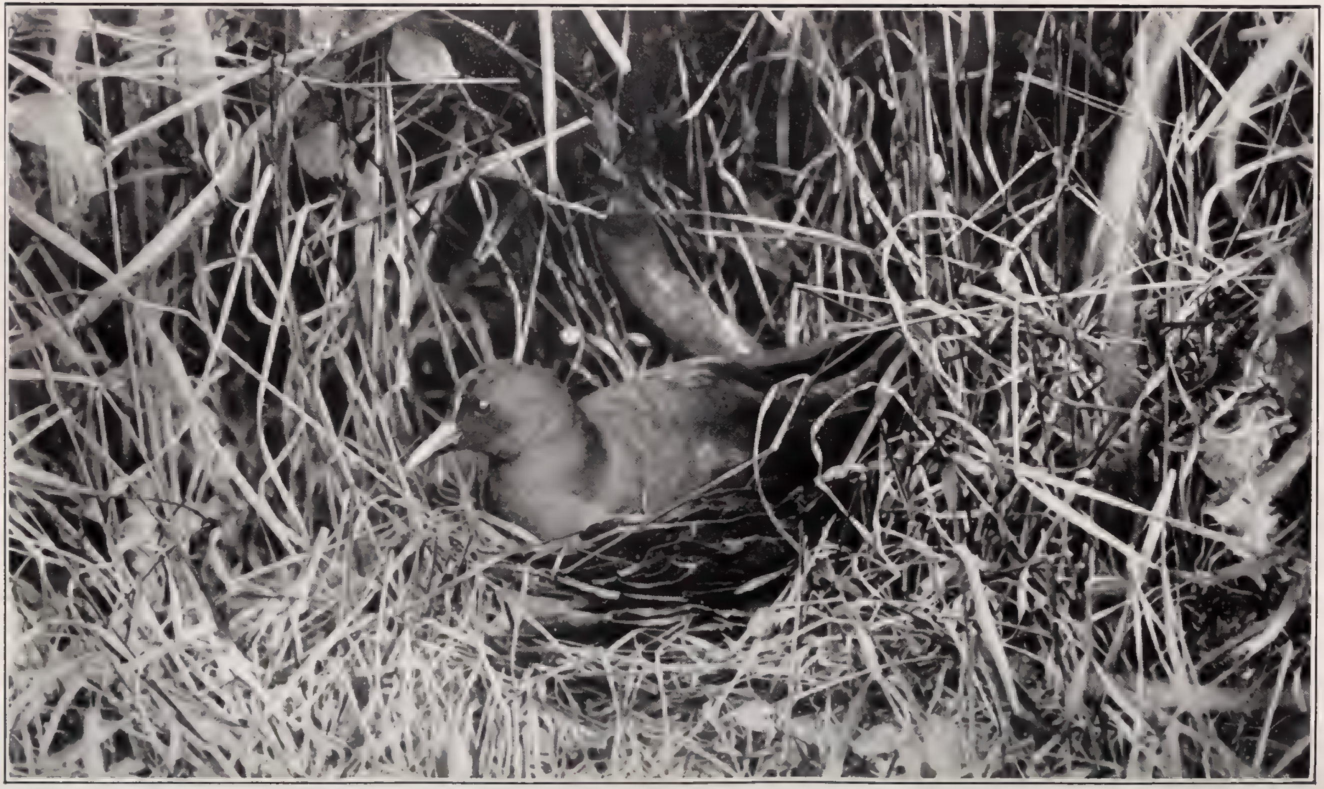


Photo by H. Willford.

Moorhen and Nest.

into my largest pond aviary; they were caught near some disused brick ponds, where they were attracted by the food supplied to my fancy ducks.

One of the cocks and the hen paired, and started building about the end of April, but laid only three eggs. They then began to sit, and in due course hatched out three chicks, which have all been successfully reared. Both birds shared the duties of incubation but would leave the nest on the slightest suspicion of any approach; three days after the young were hatched I removed old and young to another aviary, with a pond, overlooked from my studio window, and here amongst the rushes and water grasses I had the pleasure of watching them, quite unobserved, grow up, under the tender care of their parents, who spent most of the day searching around the rushes for minute insects which were passed from beak to beak.

Both young and old were generally to be seen on the pond, swimming backwards and forwards, but at the slightest alarm would take to cover.

Besides these small insects the chicks were fed on Spratts' biscuit meal, the parent birds going ashore to fetch the food—a tiny piece at a time and swimming with it back to the expectant chicks, which seldom left the water for the first three weeks, but rested on partly submerged reeds.

When hatched the young were black, with bright red beaks, which changed in colour after the first few weeks. They still swim about with the parent birds, from which it is now difficult to distinguish them.

All are very shy and not easy to photograph on account of their jerky movements, either of head or tail, but are most interesting birds to watch.

One nest I tried to photograph, the young were just chipping the shell and whilst hidden in my hiding tent, I watched the old bird deliberately help the young out of the shell, most likely she had become suspicious, and thought the sooner they were hatched and taken to more secret quarters the better.

In a wild state the nest is built among the rushes or reed grasses, very often some distance from the water;

the number of eggs varying from six to twelve or more. The young can swim as soon as they are dry after hatching, and are reared on insects and vegetation, together with a certain amount of seeds and grain.

Book Notices and Reviews.

Talks About Birds: By Frank Finn, containing 16 coloured and 20 uncoloured plates. Small square demy 8vo., cloth, gilt top, 6s net. London: A. and C. Black, Soho Square, W.

For this latest work from the prolific pen of Mr. Finn, we have nothing but praise it is well conceived—in his preface the author states that he has made an attempt to have a number of talks with young people about various birds their ways of living, habits, tricks, minds, and thoughts, so far as they are known, to have any. That Mr. Finn, has succeeded will be at once apparent from the following glossary of contents, and illustrations:

Contents: Where our Poultry came from—Birds in Training Fagging in the Bird World—Birds that are boarded out Birds at Play—Giants, and Dwarfs—Birds in the Nursery—Birds at School—Birds that Keep Order—Birds under water—Birds about Towns Some Strange Nests—Birds at Night—Bird Adventures Some Bird Notabilities.

Illustrations (in colour): Fishing with Cormorants—Redpoll—Peregrine Falcon—Richardson's Skua—Cuckoo Moorhen—Kingfisher Eagle—Red-throated Diver—Red-breasted Merganser—Kite Stork—Magpie—Waxwing Wren Starling. (In black-and-white): Flamingo—Harpy—Ostrich Rhea Bee Humming-bird Heron Hoatzin Cariama—King-bird—King-Penguin Great Auk—Nest of Oven Bird Hornbill—Kiwi—White Owl—Nightjar—Sandgrouse—Hoopoe—Quezal Secretary Bird.

We cordially commend the above to the attention of our readers, though primarily penned for young people it will not fail to interest and instruct those of riper years. It is worthy a place on your bookshelf.

Editorial.

Viellot's Tanager (*Calliste viellotí*): The lower figure on our coloured plate, drawn from a specimen imported and exhibited by Mr. A. Sutcliffe at the L.C.B.A. Show of November, 1910, where Mr. Goodchild made the necessary studies, of which the fine figure on our frontispiece is the result. There are four species—or species and sub-species—of Calliste which all bear a striking resemblance to each other, viz ;

Brazilian Turquoise Tanager (*C. brasiliensis*).
Guianan ,, ,, (*C. flaviventris*).
Viellot's ,, ,, (*C. vielloti*).
Bolivian ,, ,, (*C. boliviana*).

As regards Viellot's the figure on our plate illustrates this, and as an issue or two later all will be described in due course in the serial "Foreign Birds," I do not purpose entering into, either a comparison, or the race question of the above at this juncture; but will merely state that to Mr. Sutcliffe belongs the honor of bringing over the first living specimen of this gorgeous Tanager, which does well on ordinary Tanager treatment (*vide page 1 of this issue*). A full description, comparison, range, etc., will appear later in the serial "Foreign Birds."

AN EARLY NEST: Mr. Yealand informs us that in the Isle of Wight a Song Thrush had built in a hawthorn bush (high up), and on Xmas Day was closely incubating a clutch of eggs.

WINTER NESTLINGS: In Dr. Gosse's and Mr. W. T. Page's aviaries, young of Cutthroats left the nest a few days before Xmas and are still living, while in Mrs. Davidson's aviary (Bitterne, Hants.) young of Madagascar Lovebirds left the nest at intervals during December—the young, now able to fend for themselves have been taken indoors, but their parents are still out of doors and incubating another clutch of eggs.

Owing to pressure on our space (show reports, etc.), many interesting articles and notes are unavoidably held over.

Special attention is drawn to the "Notices to Members," in Inset—vide green pages, page 12.

Correspondence.

TWO RARE PARROTS.

Sir,—Early in December (last) I spent an afternoon at the Zoo, chiefly in the Parrot House. This is very different from what it was a few years ago, as the inmates are now well housed and carefully attended to, so that they seem to enjoy life thoroughly. Among the specimens which especially attracted my attention were the single representations of Meyer's Parrot (*Poeocephalus meyeri*) and of Everett's Parrot (*Tanygnathus everetti*), both *males* because my examples of these two uncommon species are both *females*. Now according to the most recent work of reference I possess—viz., Dr. Butler's "Foreign Birds, for Cage and Aviary," Part II., not dated on title-page, but apparently published in 1909—the females of these birds do not seem to have been scientifically described. Meyer's Parrot is, I believe, a somewhat variable species, so that possibly the distinction between my specimen and that at Zoo does not invariably hold good, but such as it is I venture to record it here, viz., that the male has more, and more distinct, yellow patches on the head, and his breast is of a vivid emerald green, thickly interspersed with blackish-brown, whereas the breast of the female is entirely pure emerald-green. The plumage of the female of Everett's Parrot consists entirely of yellow-green feathers, but in the male they are distinctly edged with blue.

All being well, I hope my two birds will find their way to the Palace Show early next month, and it seems to me it would be a great advantage to avicultural science if you, our worthy Editor, or some other expert who is likely to be present would on that occasion kindly write, and subsequently publish a technical description of these two birds of mine. 'At present they are in splendid health, but, as one can never tell what may happen, it seems a pity that the opportunity of describing them should be lost. (Rev.) G. H. RAYNOR.

[If at the Palace Show (I hope to be there) I shall be pleased to take descriptions of Mr. Raynor's birds, and compare with catalogue descriptions, in a near issue of "*B.N.*"—Ed].

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

Bullfinch (♂). (Miss A. B. Smyth, Catford, S.E.) Cause of death, pneumonia and enteritis. Thoroughly wash and then *Disinfect* your cages with a 10 per cent. solution of carbolic acid. Give a little hemp seed and also sunflower.

Cordon Bleu (♂). (H. W. Mathias, Stubbington, Hants.) Cause of death, hæmorrhage from liver which was affected with fatty degeneration.

Tri-coloured Mannikin (♂). (Mrs. W. H. Read, Cambridge). Cause of death, pneumonia.

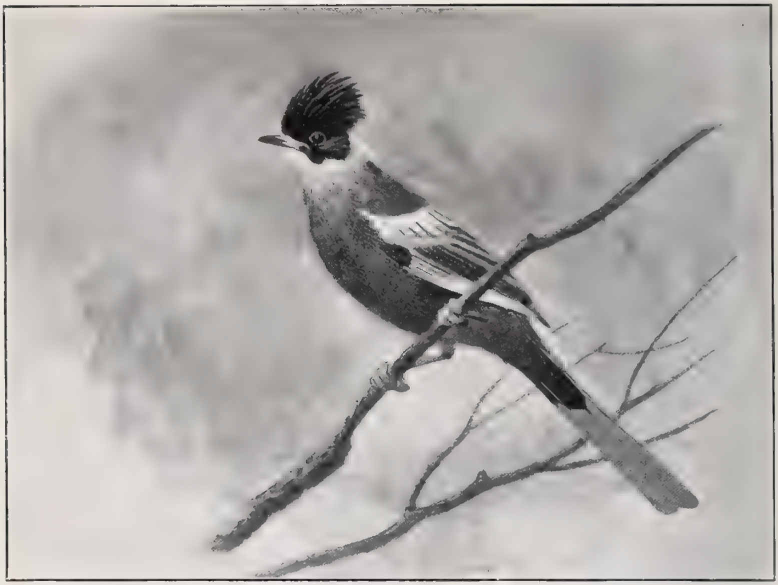
Blue-breasted Waxbills (♂). (T. H. Sellars, Partick, N.B.) The liver was affected with acute yellow atrophy and the lungs with pneumonia.

Two (♀) Parrot Finches. (H. W. Mathias), Stubbington, Hants). Both had internal haemorrhage due to an injury to the liver. I am sorry you have had such a misfortune. I reciprocate your kindly sentiments.

Ruficauda Finch (♂). (H. W. Mathias). The cause of death was acute yellow atrophy of the liver.

Answered by Post.—The Hon. Mary C. Hawke; Miss A. B. Smyth.

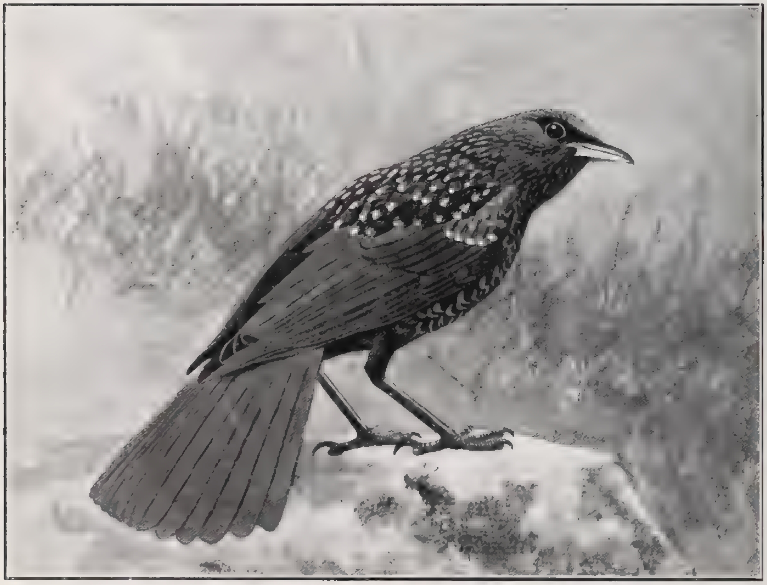
H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



From life by H. Goodchild.

Black-headed Sibia (*Malacias capistrata*).
Exhibited by J. M. Walsh.

TWO SCOTTISH NATIONAL WINNERS.



From life by H. Goodchild.

Himalayan Whistling Thrush (*Myiophoneus temmencki*).
Exhibited by Miss Peddie Waddell.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Scottish National Cage Bird Show.

BY H. GOODCHILD, M.B.O.U.

For the third time, I made the 400 miles journey from London to "Auld Reekie," for the express purpose of drawing some of the many charming exhibits at the tenth annual exhibition of the "Scottish National Cage Bird Society," held (probably for the last time) in the Corn Exchange, Grassmarket, Edinburgh, on December 30th, 1911, and January 1st, 1912.

Although the birds that interested me totalled only some 150, there were among them several which were only to be seen in the "Modern Athens," and others that cannot be seen every day, either in my beloved haunts, Epping Forest, the Pentland Hills, near Edinburgh, or the Penine Range of the north of England, or even in our London "Zoo."

In the British Section the entries totalled 386, while the Foreign Section—apart from the continental Goldfinches and Bullfinches—had only 54. But though the entries in each case may have been less than when I last had the pleasure of writing about them, there was compensation for the journey for me, and those few members of the F.B.C. whom I saw there, doubtless also did not regret going.

Taking the Foreign Section first as being of most interest to the majority of our readers, I should place first for Ornithological interest Miss E. G. R. Peddie Waddell's beautiful pair of Rock Peplar Parrakeets, which were placed second in the class. The two birds were slightly nervous, and the male had a tail feather sticking rather out of position and chafed at the time of judging and a small temporary stain on his tail, otherwise they were perfect, and by far the best specimens of the species I remember seeing. Along with them was a male Malaccan Parrakeet (*Pataeornis longicauda*) quite tame and in perfect feather. Beside these for interest may be placed the same lady's Himalayan Whistling Thrush, the first I remember seeing on the show bench but, unfortunately in the same condition as the Rock Peplar, and Malaccan Parrakeets.

Our member, Mr. J. M. Walsh, showed several of the most charming and beautiful of the smaller birds, notably the White-eyebrowed Wood-Swallow (*Artamus superciliosus*), from Australia, in perfect condition, very tame, and so healthy and happy (apparently) that it sang while I was drawing it. Of all the Wood-Swallows I have seen (I have seen five or six species), this was the sleekest and most silvery, and in some of its attitudes was almost as trim and tight as our own Swallows or Martins. This bird was awarded the F.B.C. medal. Mr. Walsh also showed Maroon, Black-throated, and Tricolour Tanagers, and a pair of Black-headed Sibias, from which my drawing of the ♂ was taken.

The Yellow-winged Sugar Bird shown by Mrs. T. Taylor was exceptional in condition and brilliance, quite equalling the gems shown in London by Mrs. K. Leslie Miller, and Mr. S. M. Townsend. Another bird in splendid condition was the Green Glossy Starling of Messrs. Nicholson and Son. This bird, I am told has been in captivity ten years.

A Ceram or Red Lory, a Blue-cheeked Barbet, a Melba Finch of Mr. F. Howe's, a Green-billed Toucan of Mr. W. Baxby's and a Hardwick's Fruit-sucker, were amongst the other interesting exhibits.

The bird placed in front of Miss Peddie Waddell's Rock Peplar Parrakeet, was described as an "Adelaide" in the catalogue, but I saw at a glance that it was not that. An Adelaide Parrakeet is like a Pennant, but is orange-red instead of crimson, while this bird was dark green on the back with black centres to the feathers and had on indistinct yellow collar and broken red on the head and breast just what one would expect a cross between a Barnard and a Rosella to be like, and I have no doubt myself that that was what it was. Miss Peddie Waddell fared hard not getting a first prize in the whole section with twelve entries, including the rarest birds in the show.

The British Birds were as good in their way as those of the Foreign Section, the interesting classes (Ornithologically speaking) containing nearly 100 entries. The most interesting bird was doubtless the ♀ Dartford Warbler, shown by Messrs. Martin and Archer, seen alive for probably the first time at a Scottish show or for that matter, anywhere in Scotland -as it is a southern species, commoner in Spain than in England. The only other true Warbler in the show was Mr. G. W. Lawrie's Sedge Warbler. Mr. A. W. Watson (the able Secretary) showed a Meadow Bunting, a Black-headed (the true *E. melanocephala*), that rare visitor from the continent), and an Ortolan, the latter charmingly silky and tight, but rather dim in colour, as also was another Ortolan in the class.

The first prize amongst the small insectivorous birds deservedly went to an exquisite Black Redstart in faultless condition, very tame and charming, entered by Mr. Edmund Taylor, while a Tree Creeper (in a cage lined with dark blue plush or velvet) came very near it, for everything but rarity. Both ♂ and ♀ Bearded Tits and also Waxwings were here, a solitary Shore Lark (from London), Corn and Snow Buntings, a lutino "Yellow Hammer," White or Pied Linnet, Thrush, and Blackbird, while Grey and

Yellow Wagtails, Hawfinches, Crossbills, Redstarts, two Choughs, and a male Ring-Ouzel completed the list of interesting species.

As on former occasions, my thanks are due to the courteous show officials for granting me all facilities to draw the exhibits, and the thanks of all the exhibitors in the Foreign Section, to Miss Peddie Waddell, for the care she took in looking after and feeding all the foreign birds whose owners were not present.

FOREIGN SECTION (AWARDS).

Class 115, Foreign Goldfinch, 1 F. Price, 2 Mrs. M'Lennan, 3 John Henderson, 4 J. Henderson, 5 F. Russell, v.h.c. W. Pringle, h.c. A. Craig, c. Cadman, Bros.

Class 116, Foreign Bullfinch, 1 W. R. Finnie, 2 J. Turner, 3, 5, and h.c. A. Craig; 4 Minnitt; v.h.c. S. Jones, C. Lester.

Class 117, Foreign Bullfinch Hen, 1 W. Ferguson, 2 W. Laidlaw, 3 S. Jones, 4 D. M. Cannon, 5 Mrs. M'Lennan, v.h.c. T. H. V. Haytir, h.c. A. A. Watson.

Class 118, A.S., Parrakeets (including Broadtails, Lorikeets, and Lovebirds. 1 F. Reek's "Adelaide," (certainly not this species as it was mostly green), 2 Miss Peddie Waddell ♂ ♀ Rock Peplars; 3 J. Mackenzie, Black-cheeked Lovebirds; 4 H. S. Davies, King; 5 W. Baxby, Pennant; v.h.c. W. A. Pickles, Peach-faced Lovebirds; h.c. Miss Peddie Waddell, Malaccan Parrakeet; c. Baxby.

Class 119, A.S. of short-tailed Parrots, Cockatoos, Macaws, and Lories. 1 and 2 J. Mackenzie, Ceram Lory and 2 Senegal, Parrot; 3 Miss Peddie Waddell, Blue-fronted Amazon.

Class 120, Waxbills, etc. 1 and 3, F. Howe, Gold-breasted Waxbills, and White-headed Mannikins; 2 Mrs. M. Younger, Lavender Finch; 4 Nicholson and Son, Parson Finches; 5 P. Arnott, Red Avadavats; v.h.c. Mrs. M. Younger, Fire Finch; h.c. A. R. Towns, St. Helena Waxbills.

Class 121, A.O.S. of Seed-eating Birds. 1 F. Howe, Melba Finch; 2 J. M. Walsh, Green Cardinal; 3 and v.h.c. Miss Peddie Waddell, Cuban and Bicheno Finches; 4 Lawrie and Welsh, Paradise Whydah; 5 J. W. Bruce, Crimson Finch; h.c. T. Almond, Cuban Finches.

Class 122, A.S. Tanagers, Sugarbirds, Honey-eaters, Zosterops, and Bulbuls. 1 Mrs. T. Taylor; Yellow-winged Sugarbird; 2, 3, and 5, J. M. Walsh, Maroon, Black-throated, and Tricolour Tanagers, 4 Miss Peddie Waddell Blue-winged Fruitsucker (Hardwick's); v.h.c. Nicholson and Son, Black-cheeked Sugarbird; h.c. Arnott, Gold-fronted Fruitsucker.

Class 123, A.S. not comprised in the above. 1 and 3 J. M. Walsh, White-eyebrowed Wood-Swallow and Black-headed Sibias, former winning the F.B.C. Medal; 2 W. Baxby, Green-billed Toucan; 4 Nicholson and Son, Green Glossy Starling; 5 John Sykes, another of the same species; v.h.c., h.c., and c. Miss Peddie Waddell, Himalayan Whistling Thrush, Indian Greater Hill Mynah, and Blue-cheeked Barbet.

Breeding of the Red Ground Dove.

(*Geotrygon montana*).

BY R. SUGGITT.

The Red Ground Dove, known as the Mountain Partridge in Jamaica, is occasionally imported alive to Great Britain, but at very irregular intervals, and in such small numbers that it cannot be at all well known to the aviculturists of this country. I therefore quote Gosse's description, and some of his account of the wild life of the species.

Male: "Upper parts bright chestnut, more or less flushed "with a purple iridescence, chiefly on neck and back. Breast "pale purplish-brown, softened to white on throat and chin; a "band of deep chestnut turns forward from the ear to the throat. "Belly and under tail-coverts, buff-white; irides, golden yellow; "feet, flesh coloured; front of tarsi, bright red; beak, reddish "horn colour; base dark red; naked skin of face, blue; red in "centre; edge of eyelids, scarlet.

Female: "Upper parts, dark olive glossed, a few (some-"times nearly all) of the feathers tipped with bay; head rather "browner; wing quills blackish; tail, blackish; outmost feathers "tipped with white, a broad spot of chestnut on the inner web; "throat whitish; breast and sides dusky; under parts reddish-"white.

"This bird, the female of which is the least beautiful of "all our Doves, is generally scattered. It affects a well-wooded "country, and is found in such woods as are more choked with "bushes than such as the White Belly (*Leptoptila jamaicensis*) "prefers; though they often dwell together. It is essentially a "Ground Pigeon, walking in couples or singly, seeking for seeds "or gravel on the earth. It is often seen beneath a pimento "picking up the fallen berries; the physic-nut also, and other "oily seeds afford it sustenance. Sam once observed a pair "of these Doves eating the large seed of a mango, that had "been crushed. With seeds, I have occasionally found small "slugs, a species of *Vaginulus*, common in damp places, in its "gizzard. Often when riding through the Cotta-wood, a dense "and tangled coppice near Content, I have been startled by "the loud whirrings of one of these birds, and at the same instant "its short, thick-set form has shot across on rapid wings, con-"spicuous for a moment from its bright plumage, but instantly "lost in the surrounding bushes. When on the ground it is wary "and difficult of approach; but if it takes a tree, it seems less "fearful, and will allow the aim of the sportsman. It is in the "dry season, and particularly during the parching norths that "prevail at intervals from November to March, that the Part-"ridge, as well as one or two other species of Dove is numerous "in the lowland woods. In the summer it is much less frequently "seen, and then only in the deep woods.

"In some districts it is very abundant, though Dr. Chamberlain intimates that it has become scarce in the neighbourhood "of Kingston. . . . .

. . . . . . It is readily kept in a cage with other "Doves and fed with maize.

"In the short Cut of Paradise, where the sweet-woods "abound, the Partridge is also numerous. In March and April "when these berries are ripe, their stomachs are filled with them. "Here at the same season, their cooing resounds, which is simply a "very sad moan, usually uttered on the ground; but on one occasion we heard it from the limb of a cotton tree at Cave, on "which the bird was sitting with its head drawn in was shot "in the very act. . . . .

" . . . . One day in June I went down with a "young friend into a wooded valley at Content, to look at a "Partridge's nest. As we crept cautiously towards the spot, "the male bird flew from it. I was surprised at its rudeness; "It was nothing but half-a-dozen decayed leaves laid one on another, and on two or three dried twigs, but from the sitting "of the bird it had acquired a slight hollowness, about as much "as that of a skimmer. It was placed at the top (slightly "sunk among the leaves) of a small bush, not more than three "feet high, whose glossy foliage and small white blossoms reminded me of a myrtle. There were two young, recently "hatched; callow and peculiarly helpless, their eyes closed, their "bills large and misshapen—they bore little resemblance to birds."

"On another occasion I saw the male shot whilst sitting, the nest was then placed on a slender bush, about five "feet from the ground. There were but two eggs of a very "pale colour; sometimes, however, they are considerably darker." ("Birds of Jamaica.")

Since the above account was written, this species has become sadly depleted in numbers in Jamaica, and owing to the introduction of the Mongoose, it is feared that it will be eventually exterminated in that island, as is the case with its beautiful congener, the Mountain Witch (*Geotrygon sylvatica*). The Red Ground Dove has however, a fairly wide range on the mainland.

Mr. Sutcliffe on his visit to the West Indies in 1909, secured altogether nine specimens, which had been bred in the aviaries of our member, Mr. McKenzie, at Kingston. Arriving in England, as these birds did, in mid-winter, I thought it policy to keep them fairly warm, until the arrival of more congenial weather, and I did not turn the pair, which Mr. Sutcliffe kindly presented me with, outside, until the end of the following March.

These Doves spend most of their time squatting on the ground, usually singly, and almost invariably under the shelter of low bushes; occasionally they perch on a low branch, but much prefer the earth, even when it is cold and wet; they, however, always choose a high branch, under shelter, on which to perch for the night, Their legs are long, and their walk is rather stately, and after every few steps they stop to give a quick upward flirt of their hind quarters. They run with ease and rapidity. Like most pigeons, these Doves are fond of hemp, but what is very remarkable is their liking for "live food"; gentles are eaten like seeds, earth worms—even large ones—they consider a delicacy, and are simply ravenous for meal-worms; fruit, also (especially banana) forms a considerable portion of their diet.

Their cooing is a most depressing and mournful moan, varied with a kind of low grunt, when they are courting. I have never seen the male make a display to his mate; he simply walks about in her vicinity and makes the most of his superior size. They are hardy birds, and able to withstand the rigour of our English winter.

During the summer of 1910—except for a small period of courtship, my birds never appeared likely to nest, and I had very little hope that they would do so this year. In the late part of June, however, there were signs of unusual activity; the cock was continually cooing to the hen, and they were both taking a deep interest in the various low bushes in the aviary. Later I saw the hen crouched in the fork of an ivy-covered cherry tree, and the cock standing on her back with a stick in his bill; this he put down at her side and then repeated the performance, the hen arranging the sticks to her own satisfaction. This nest, when completed was the finest specimen of Dove architecture I have yet seen. The sides were raised, and made quite a deep egg-cavity, which was very neatly lined with dead leaves. The first egg was laid on July 2nd, and I was very much surprised at its depth of colour. I had expected from Gosse's description to find a tinted egg, but the colour of this one was as deep as the darkest variety of domestic fowls' egg. Surely this is an anomaly. The shell was glossy and smooth. Shortly after I had seen the egg, some egg-thief in the aviary had also seen it, and it lay on the ground, with the contents gone, and a large hole in the side. The second egg was laid two days later, and incubation commenced. Everything progressed favourably until July 12th, when it shared the fate of the first one. On July 17th, they commenced to build again on the outer branches of an apple tree—but the site was a very unsubstantial one, and most of the material fell to the ground; an egg was laid on the 19th, but it, and the remainder of the nest, fell through the branches, The other egg, which the the hen laid on some hay, I blew.

I suppose they were disheartened after these reverses, and a long time elapsed before the third, and this time a successful attempt was made. On September 9th I saw them pair. On the 19th a nest was completed, and an egg laid in a shallow confectionery box, nailed up in the shelter. Here again they worked under difficulty. A male White-crowned Pigeon, who used the edge of the box for his roosting place, vigorously disputed possession, and in the struggle the egg was broken. I removed the White-crown, and everything went on smoothly. The second egg was laid on the 21st, and they commenced to incubate again. Both sexes incubate, and they have a peculiar habit of standing in the water, motionless, for quite a long time after they come off the nest.

I did not interfere with the Partridges until October 6th, when I thought the egg would be due to hatch. On looking into the box I found a strong dark coloured youngster, apparently about two days old. On October 11th, the wings appeared to be fully feathered; the pens were commencing to burst on the head and neck, and the young bird had grown with remarkable rapidity. The next day I was going to take my last look at the youngster before it left the nest, but, as soon as my eyes appeared above the edge of the box, out it dashed, and flew very strongly, not to the ground, as one would have supposed, but to a perch, on which it kept its balance quite easily. I have had very little experience with Doves, but I should say that the development of the young of this species is more rapid than in the majority of the

Order. Allowing as little as twelve days for the incubation period, the young one was only nine days old when it left the nest, fully feathered and able to fly strongly. I have no doubt that if the young one had not been disturbed it would have left the box either that afternoon or the following morning—three weeks after the egg was laid. It was particularly strong on its legs, and wandered freely about the aviary, often running at a good speed. On October 19th I first saw it make attempts to pick up seed, and on the 25th it was eating hemp and small earth worms.

I am not able to give a detailed description of the plumage of the nestling, but it does not resemble that of either of its parents. The head and neck are darker and duller than in the female, the back and scapulas are deep chocolate, regularly barred with bright rufous brown. It is now (December 4th) rapidly assuming the ruddy plumage of the adult male.

Another clutch of eggs was laid in the same box later, but after incubating them for a few days, the birds commenced to moult and deserted them.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 15).

M. gabar. GABAR GOSHAWK.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

Another "Selingo," but a much smaller bird than the preceding. Like it, it is grey above and white cross-barred with a yellow gape and a deep red cere, the legs a waxy red. Length 12 inches. The Gabar is a much more sluggish bird than are our other small grey Hawks, to some of which it shows a superficial resemblance. It seems to spend a great part of its time perched on the top of some dead tree, waiting apparently for its food (mice, reptiles, and large insects) to come its way.

Astur sphenurus. SENEGAL GOSHAWK.

Range. North-east Africa. Sudan to Senegambia. (*H.L*)

These little Goshawks are very common in the Gambia, and are exceedingly bold and active birds and quite as dangerous to the poultry-yard as any of our Hawks. I had one alive for some time, which had followed a dove into a cage-trap and actually begun to tear his victim even when he found himself imprisoned. Their proper Mandingo name is "Pirampàto" or

"Biram-pàto," but the more general name "Selingo" is also often applied to them. Above the plumage is blue grey, darker on the wings and tail, which are barred with a darker browner grey. Below, chin, white, throat white streaked with grey, sides of neck mottled brown and grey, the rest of under surface mottled brown and white, except the vent and under tail-coverts which are pure white. Iris red-hazel, beak black, cere yellow with blackish edges, legs dull orange, feet darker. Length $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Accipiter melanoleucus. PIED SPARROWHAWK.

Range. Tropical Africa, Cape Verde Islands. (*H.L.*)

I have once or twice (always just before the rains, in May or June) seen a large black Hawk with white belly and underwing, and a white-barred tail, which I believe to be this species. They are rather larger and much more stoutly built than a Peregrine and are always seen in pairs.

Circus macrus. PALLID HARRIER.

Range. Eastern Europe and temperate Asia. India, China, and Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

Harriers, generally in pairs, one grey (the male), the other brown (the female), flying low and quartering the dry swamps, are a common sight here. Most of them are probably this species, in which the male (17.5 inches long) is grey above and white to pale grey below, and the female (larger, 19 inches) brown above except on the rump, which is nearly white, and below buffy white streaked with dark brown.

Polyboroides typicus. HARRIER-HAWK.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

This bird, is, I think, only an occasional visitor to the Gambia. It haunts the large swamps—dry except in places for the greater part of the year—but instead of sweeping boldly backwards and forwards across the open like the Harriers, it prefers their tree-dotted borders, where it wheels in and out among the trees, generally close to the ground and resting at intervals on some branch or hillock. The only specimen I have handled was obtained by Captain Stanley, the Commissioner of the Upper River, and when shot was hanging with outspread wings on to the vertical trunk of a tree, exactly as described in Stark and Sclater's "Birds of South Africa."

In this species the sexes are alike, though the female is the larger. Nearly the whole plumage is grey marked with black, the exception being the tail, which is black banded with mottled black and white above, and entirely pure white below, and the belly which is barred with black and white. The length of the male is 25.5 inches, of the female 29. Iris blackish brown; bill black, paler at base; cere, bare skin round the eye and legs yellow. (*Birds of South Africa, Vol. III, p.* 380). Captain Stanley's specimen agreed in every particular with the description given by Mr. Sclater, except that the cere was a markedly paler yellow than the eye-patch and legs.

Serpentarius gambiensis. SECRETARY-BIRD.

Range. Senegambia, Sudan to Shoa. (*H.L.*)

The Secretary-Bird is said to visit the Gambia in the rains, but I have never seen one yet here.

VULTURIDAE.

Necrosyrtes monachus. COMMON VULTURE.

Range. North-east and East Africa; Sudan; West Africa. (*H.L.*)

These ever-present ever-ready scavengers are common everywhere. Each town and village has its resident flock—large or small, according to its size—of these almost domestic birds, which share the duties of scavengers with the Kites and native dogs, and it is but rarely that one can raise one's eye during the daylight hours without seeing some of these birds either sitting motionless but watchful on some neighbouring tree or else soaring high overhead. They nest in large trees, often inside the native towns, and in many places one sees Vultures, Pelicans, Wood-Ibis, and White-backed Crows all nesting in company and harmony on one tree. Only one large white egg is laid.

Their general colour is dirty blackish brown, darker on the wings and tail, and paler—to dirty and white on the belly—below. The head and neck (the latter dilatable in front to form a pouch) are bare except for a sparse sprinkling of down; the bare skin is normally a dirty flesh-colour, but becomes a livid red at times, when the bird is much excited or its attention particularly aroused. The beak and legs are dirty pink. In many the plumage is much lighter all over and some are marked with large irregular patches almost white in colour. The natives often call such birds "Leper-Vultures," and well they merit the name, for they are even more repulsive in appearance than their normally coloured brothers.

The native names for all the Vultures are "Tan" in Joloff and "Doo-o" in Mandingo; in the latter language there are also special names for this species and for our large brown Vulture (*Gyps*),—"Suntkuntu-Doo-oo" for the first, "Jambokatang-Doo-o" for the second.

The Vultures' well known useful functions and habits ensure their freedom from molestation at the hands of man, and they are therefore always absolutely tame and fearless. Among the natives tradition and custom protect them, while British law holds the penalty of a possible £25 fine, or six months hard, over the head of any would-be Vulture-slayer.

Besides the Common Vulture we have three other less common species; they are (1) our largest Vulture, a brown bird, at least 40 inches in length, with an abundant neck-ruff. These are quite common, in some places indeed they are very nearly as numerous as the common species. (2) a white-headed, white-bellied, dark brown bird nearly as large as No. 1, which at a distance somewhat resembles the Vulturine Sea-Eagle (*Gypohierax*). (3) A smaller bird, blackish brown in colour with a white patch on the rump and a bare black head and neck. The last two are decidedly rare in the Gambia. The three I take to belong to the following species:

(1) *Gyps fulvus.* GRIFFON VULTURE.

Range. South and Central Europe. North Africa and Sudan (*H.L.*)

(2) *Lophogyps occipitalis.* WHITE-HEADED VULTURE.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

(3) *Pseudogyps africanus.* AFRICAN WHITE-BACKED VULTURE.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L*).

(*To be Continued*).

The Breeding of the Silver-eared Mesia.

(*Mesia argentauris*).

By O. Millsum.

The followers of aviculture branch out in various ways, and the aim of many is to endeavour to get birds of a wild nature (by this I mean those that have not become habitually domesticated, as for instance, the Canary family), to reproduce their kind in captivity. As in many other things, one desires to be first in breeding fresh species, but the task is becoming more and more difficult, for the scope is becoming more limited, year by year. It is, however, a pleasure for me to record the present instance, for the avicultural enthusiasm of M. Pauvvels deserves such reward. His enthusiasm is beyond question, his interests keen, and his affection for the birds sincere and intense. At Everberg, the birds are housed comfortably, and although mortals cannot command success, Monsieur Pauvvels does more—he deserves it.

It does not always follow because one has birds, and they are given every facility to breed, that this occurs; there is one great thing wanting, and that is adaptability on the feathered beauties' part. That's the idea, and if the birds possess this, nothing will prevent them endeavouring to have young. Even then, one may not be fortunate enough to succeed in obtaining eggs or in having young birds reared; but, one has a golden chance. That in the Everberg Aviaries to-day there are not several aviary-bred Mesias was not the fault of the old birds, nor, I can assure my readers, was it due to any want of attention on mine.

It was a cold bitter morning in March last, the actual date being the 21st, when upon walking through the aviaries I discovered what proved to be the commencement of building operations—some strands of hay securely fastened to the upright stems of a Laurel bush. After getting over the surprise of this discovery, for apart from the weather being unpropitious, the aviary was so well filled that breeding operations had not as yet entered into my calculations. I began to wonder what birds it could be that in such a variety of occupants, for amongst others in this particular aviary there were the Mesias, Grackles, Cuban Black-eared Blue Thrushes, Cuban Red-legged Thrushes, Rusty-cheeked Babblers, Hardwicke's Fruitsucker, Hangnests, Rose Finches, Black Redstarts, Shining Calornis, Green Glossy Starlings, Giant Whydahs, Bronze-winged Starlings, also a variety of Pigeons, Doves, and Quails.

Close observation soon revealed the pair, which were eager to commence house-keeping in spite of such bitterly cold weather. To say that that I haunted the outside of that particular aviary on this day would be to rightly describe my movements, and eventually my patience was rewarded by seeing the Mesias carrying strands of hay and dexterously winding them round and securely fastening them to three upright stems of the bush. They continued their labours until a strongly and closely woven open nest began to shape itself, the male bird encouraging its mate by his sweet though somewhat loud love song. During the initial stages I noticed (all observations herein recorded I made from the outside, the nest being just visible from the outside front of aviary, and curiosity tempted me to act the spy very frequently) both birds carrying and working in what may be termed "alternate shifts," but once the foundations were securely formed, and the outer shell shaped, Madame Mesia began to stay at home, whilst her lord and master busied himself collecting and carrying the necessary materials while she nimbly placed the pieces in position, and in a manner characteristic of the domestic Canary began shuffling about and turning herself round and round to ensure a perfect shape to the finished domicile.

During this period I had removed all specimens likely to prove mischievous or troublesome, replacing them by a number of Grassfinches: Gouldians, Masked, Bicheno, Long-tailed Grass, Ruficaudas, etc., thus giving greater freedom for the Mesias, and better hopes for the successful termination of their efforts; for as is well known it is well-nigh impossible to rear young insectivorous birds if a number of other Insectivora occupy the same aviary.

All went well, and within a few days the nest was completed. Eggs, however, did not appear as quickly as I desired, and with hopes almost at Zero, I began to wonder if they were simply playing at house-keeping, as many of the Grassfinches do. The latter, especially the Masked variety, are quite experts at making "homes of comfort."

However, the first egg did appear on April 5th, to be followed by others on the two succeeding days. The first and second eggs I removed (for safety) replacing them with Canary eggs, but on the appearance of the third I returned the others and incubation commenced. Everything now appeared of roseate hue, and my visions of early youngsters were indulged in, but alas visions do not always materialise—hope often smiles but to deceive. Imagining the incubation period to be about 14 days, but not knowing accurately, I tried to be patient, but on the 20th day nothing having appeared I could not restrain myself longer, and taking out the eggs, to my keen disappointment found them "clear."

The eggs were of a greenish-white tint, with reddish-brown spots or blotches, and the first egg of the clutch was somewhat smaller than the others. This peculiarity was noticeable in all the succeeding clutches.

The Mesias were left severely alone for a few days so imagine one's surprise when on again examining the nest to find, on May 4th, it contained a clutch of four eggs. Again expectations ran high, and this time there was no disappointment, for May 7th found two young Mesias in the nest, a third hatched out the next day, the fourth egg proved infertile. What a morning to be ushered into this unsympathetic world!! Cold bleak winds and pouring rains are not conducive to comfort at the best of times, and how I feared for the poor Mesia chicks, but the parent birds were thinking of caring for them too. Their natural instincts warned them that such conditions were harmful to their young, and they fully realised this for I distinctly saw *both* birds sitting closely side by side on the nest, doubtless to shield both nest and young from the severe storm then raging. To leave them exposed like this was more than I could do, so getting round the best side of the head gardener, and persuading him to let me have two glazed frame lights, I sought to assist Nature by placing them on the top of the aviary outside at a sufficient angle, to allow the rain to run freely clear of the bush underneath. That this was a welcome innovation was at once apparent, for immediately there was a change in the Mesias' demeanour. Directly they found that the downpour had ceased the male left the nest, and the hen, with a quaint shuffle, settled more cosily over the young; the fond father busily foraging around for food. All these details were observed from the top of the aviary, where I was perched, certainly with an umbrella, but heedless of the rain drifts and soaking nether garments. So far, so good, the birds are hatched, the question is, will they be reared? I did all in my power to aid them by placing a variety of foods and insects within their view—my insectile food, egg food, milk sop, ants' cocoons, fresh ants' eggs, and mealworms. The birds appeared to sample the lot, and I really thought no difficulty would be experienced in rearing every youngster hatched. There was, however, some natural food or element missing, without which, as my notes will show, there is the greatest difficulty in rearing this charming species to maturity. It was most interesting to note the care the parent birds took in destroying the worms before giving them to their young. During the first week the male bird did the foraging. He would select one or more mealworms, and after repeatedly striking them on the floor, or clutching by one claw, and striking them with the beak whilst perching on a branch, he would carry them to the hen, deposit them in her beak, after which she gave them to the young. For the first week the hen bird scarcely left the nest, afterwards both birds mutually shared the task of rearing the young.

(To be Continued)

The Blue Crowned Conure.

(Conurus hæmorrhous).

By S. Williams Jun., F.Z.S

At the request of our esteemed Editor, Mr. Page, I am sending a few notes about my Blue-crowned Conour (*Conurus hæmorrhous*). This Conure is one of a large family, of which Dr. Butler, I think, mentions about twenty-five in his book, "How to Sex Cage Birds." It inhabits the new world, and is by no means a common bird in our English markets, indeed, I believe my specimen was the first of its kind to be seen on the show-bench, at the Clapham Show this year. At the L.C.B.A. last November it stood third in a class of nine. The colour is a bright grass-green, forehead and crown blue, merging into green at the nape of the neck; wings washed over with a goldish tint; central tail feathers green, and outer ones brownish with the inside webs a rosy copper; upper mandible a light horn colour, and lower one black, joined by a whitish skin at the base; iris orange. An oblong patch of white skin encrusts the eye not unlike the macaws, only on a smaller scale. Feet light flesh colour. This Conure has only been in my possession a few months, so I cannot say very much about it as regards hardiness. Its condition is fairly good, but will I have no doubt be greatly improved after being house-moulted. The two specimens in the London Zoo have a brownish patch at the nape of the neck; this is lacking in my bird, also, the blue on the head of my Conure is much brighter than in the Zoo specimens. This may be either a distinction between the sexes or due to a moult in captivity. The food I give my bird consists of half canary and quarter each hemp, sunflower, and occasionally a few oats and millet. Fruit and nuts he is very partial to, also toast crusts, and fancy biscuits. Like his owner, he takes porridge (a good big spoonful) every morning, and enjoys it, greenfood at present he will not touch. The Blue-crowned and St. Thomas's Conures are the only species

I have kept, so cannot say if the family of Conures are known to be talkers, as regards *Conurus hæmorrhous,* it is a talking species, for my bird says a number of words, and a few sentences very distinctly, he also whistles exceedingly well, imitating several distinct calls. He is very teachable, and bids fair to rival the Grey and Amazon. If you go in the room he will greet you with "hullo," quite softly, if you take no notice he repeats it in a louder tone, and if this gets no reply regularly shouts it, just like a human being, who is losing his temper. As regards his own temper at present, it is a little uncertain, and he will occasionally bite, but this I think is more nervousness than spite. He will caress your finger with his tongue, and say "kiss Polly." If he wants to attract your attention he will catch hold of the top of his cage with his beak, and hang like a dead bird in a poultry shop, a trick evidently acquired before I bought him. If any of our members get an opportunity of buying one of these Conures, I can recommend this bird as a most charming pet. I should also be pleased to hear if any of our members have one now or have kept one in the past.

The Aviaries and Birds at the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College, Alton, Hants.

By F. W. Salt (*Manager*).

It is with much gratitude to the members of the Foreign Bird Club that I send a few particulars of the aviaries situated in the grounds of this Hospital, and which have been largely stocked by gifts from members.

I give below a list of the birds given, together with breeding results and casualities.

Until your Editor undertook the oversight of the aviaries, they fell far short of the ideal which inspired their erection.

Sir William Treloar, himself a keen lover of all natural history, especially perhaps Foreign and British birds, was anxious that the children in the Hospital, many of whom come from the mean streets of our cities, should see in these aviaries some glimpse of beauty which would awaken in in them a love of the countryside and natural history. Unfortunately our first experiment was anything but satisfactory. We had not a single success in breeding, and many birds died, but happily the services of your Editor were eventually enlisted, and since he has kindly undertaken the charge of the aviaries, everyone visiting the institution has been impressed by their greatly improved appearance. They have been considerably altered with a view to providing adequate shelter for the birds in cold weather. The flight is arranged in a natural semi-wild manner and many very interesting episodes of bird life have been witnessed by the children and staff.

With some of the species which have bred, their life history from the egg to the mature bird, has been observed, and even those species which have not bred have afforded great instruction and charm to the inmates, by their interesting and changing demeanour as the seasons ran their course. The brilliance of the birds' plumage and the joyousness of their song as they have enjoyed their semi-liberty has made the aviaries an object of interest, instruction, and charm to patients and staff alike.

The following birds were given by members of, or through the F.B.C.:—

Name of Birds.	*Donor.*
Two Cockateels	J. Sumner Mariner, Esq.
Pair Senegal Doves	Henry Willford, Esq.
Glossy Starling	Henry Willford, Esq.
Pair Cutthroats	Miss Alfreda B. Smyth.
Pair Saffron Finches	Miss Alfreda B. Smyth.
Pair Greenfinches	Miss Alfreda B. Smyth.
Pair Redpolls	Miss Alfreda B. Smyth.
Hen Chaffinch	Miss Alfreda B. Smyth.
Pair Budgerigars	Dr. J. Easton Scott.
Pair Silverbills	Dr. J. Easton Scott.
Two White Java Sparrows	Rev. H. A. Soames.
Cock Pin-tail Nonpareil	W. R. Temple, Esq.
Eight Bengalese	W. R. Temple, Esq.
Pair Cutthroats	W. R. Temple, Esq.
Hybrid Quail	Wesley T. Page, Esq.
Hybrid Doves	Wesley T. Page, Esq.
Hybrid Spice-finch x Bengalese (two)	Wesley T. Page, Esq.
Hen Cockateel	L. G. Chiozza Money, Esq., M.P.
Rose-ringed Parrakeet	W. Oakey, Esq.
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Hon. Miss A. Bruce.
Two Green Budgerigars	Miss M. E. Baker

Two Nutmeg Finches	E. W. Edmunds, Esq.
Hen Saffron Finch	E. W. Edmunds, Esq.
Cock Java Sparrow	E. W. Edmunds, Esq.
Greenfinch	E. W. Edmunds, Esq.
Bullfinch	E. W. Edmunds, Esq.
Pair Mannikins	Hayward W. Mathias, Esq., F.R.H.S.
Pair Yellow Budgerigars	Hayward W. Mathias, Esq., F.R.H.S.
Four Waxbills	Hayward W. Mathias, Esq., F.R.H.S.
Three Canaries	Mrs. Howard Williams.
One Black-headed Nun	Mrs. Howard Williams.
Pair Striated Finches	Mrs. Howard Williams.
One Spice Finch	Mrs. Howard Williams.
Pair Green Budgerigars	J. H. Henstock, Esq.
Two Doves	Anonymous.

A Slender-billed Cockatoo, donated by H. Snarey, Esq., is a College pet.

H.D. Astley, Esq., M.A., kindly sent a donation of one guinea, which was expended in the purchase of birds.

OBTAINED BY PURCHASE OR EXCHANGE.

Pairs: Red-headed Finches, Long-tailed Grassfinches, Zebra Finches, Gold-breasted Waxbills, Bronze-wing Mannikins, Ribbon Finches, Paradise Whydahs, Avadavats, Cordon Bleus, Combasous, Cuban Finches, and Canaries.

Odd Birds: Red-crested Cardinal, and Cock Giant Whydah.

CASUALTIES.

Species.	*Cause.*
Cockateel	Killed by flying against glass.
Glossy Starling	Unknown.
White Java Sparrow	Injured in transit.
Hybrid Quail	Unknown.
Hybrid Mannikins (pair)	Unknown.
Bengalese	Killed by flying against wire netting.
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Unknown.
Greenfinch	Killed in transit by Java Sparrow.
Bullfinch	Killed in transit by Java Sparrow.
Two Canaries	Unknown.

BIRDS REARED.

Saffron Finches (1 nest of 4)	All fully reared.
Cutthroats (Several nests)	About 20 fully reared.
Red-headed Finches (2 nests)	Three fully reared.
Zebra Finch (1 nest)	One youngster fully reared by male parent, the ♀ escaping. Now the youngster is mated to its father, and they are nesting.
Senegal Doves (2 nests)	Three fully reared.
Budgerigars (2 nests)	Five young fully reared, from Green x Yellow parents—young all green.
Canaries (2 nests)	Three fully reared

It should be noted, that the alterations were not completed till late Spring, and the birds introduced at intermittent periods all through the Summer. A full description with photo and plan, was given of the aviaries in your Journal (Vol. II., N.S., page 136), but it may be well to repeat their size:

FINCH AVIARY: Flight 30 x 30 feet, House 30 x 10 feet.

PARRAKEET AVIARY: Flight 20 x 30 feet, House 20 x 10 feet.

[We venture to hope that those members who have had breeding luck with Parrakeets during the past season will donate a few pairs, so that the series of birds in the Parrakeet Aviary may be a little more representative. Red-rumps, Moustache, Ring-neck, Rosella, and similar species would be very welcome, also Blue-wing, Madagascar, and Black-faced Lovebirds. They would also be glad to exchange Saffron and Ribbon Finches (Cutthroats)for other species. We shall have much pleasure in arranging details. ED].

Freely Imported Species and Their Treatment.

BY MRS. C. M. DAVIDSON.

Probably a short account of the nesting of my Madagascar Lovebirds (*Agapornis cana*) might be of interest to readers of *Bird Notes*. On the 20th of September last I noticed the Madagascar taking quite an interest in a large log nest, and the next day the hen disappeared. The cock never went into the nest, and it was only very seldom he allowed anyone to see him feeding her. He fed her at the entrance of the log, and he always flew away the instant he realised that a human creature was in the vicinity.

I saw about this time many narrow strips of laurel leaf on the ground, and at first I put this down to some Cockateels who were then busily engaged denuding a laurel of its leaves; but, seeing some of the strips hanging out of the Lovebird's log, I discovered that they were the cutters.

Matters went on in this way till December 1st, when to my joy, a young cock in perfect plumage emerged from the nest. The young bird differed from his father, only in two points, viz.: there was a dark green band (edges not sharply defined) from the top of its head and merging into the back, this has now, December 31st, almost disappeared;

its beak was darker than that of its parents. On December 3rd another young cock appeared, and on December 13th a young hen came out of the log, in plumage the counterpart of its mother. The male parent then left the young cocks to fend for themselves, and drove them away whenever they approached their sister, but, all the young slept in the log.

Before the hen came out, looking in I saw that there was at least one other egg being incubated then, and I believe that it, or they, are now hatched out, as the cock has been industriously eating cuttle-bone, which I find a fairly safe test with some birds, especially so with this species, and also Zebra Finches. The young cock which first left the log soon died. I then brought the other two indoors, and put them in a cage where they are now, and in the best of health; but, oddly enough, for young birds, they are very wild, even though sharing a cage with a perfectly tame Budgerigar.

The day before yesterday I had the luck to witness unobserved the cutting and carrying up of the strips of leaves. The cock took no part in the cutting up, except to remain in close attendance on his mate, following her up and down, while she collected and prepared material. After preparing the strips of laurel, and oak leaves, she tucked them into the feathers of the rump and lower back, erecting the feathers of these parts almost perpendicularly, and when fully loaded up, she had a most absurd, almost hedgehog-like appearance.

She carried from fifteen to twenty pieces to the log each time, and mostly without losing any *en route.*

She has been in the log, apparently continuously, for three months; yet appears to be in the best of health and feather.

I trust I am not wasting valuable space with too well-worn a subject.

An Effective Mouse Trap for the Aviary.

By Rev. J. M. Paterson.

The following trap I have found very effective in my outdoor aviaries. The first night I set it in my open flight I caught thirteen mice—the trap is always there and a few mice still get in it occasionally, and I find it keeps these aviary pests under.

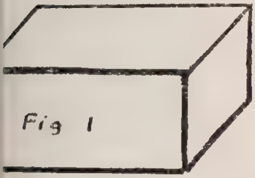


Fig 1

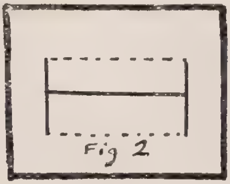


Fig 2

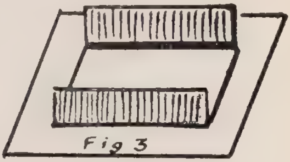


Fig 3

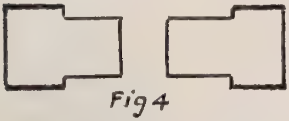


Fig 4

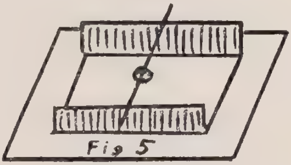


Fig 5

Fig. 1. A small zinc tank 4 x 7 x 4 inches deep—to be let into the earth, flush with the surface if possible.

Fig. 2. The lid to lay on top of tank (Fig. 1), resting on the ground 8 x 12 inches. A hole is cut in the lid, by cuts as shown in figure. The centre cut to be 6 inches long, and the end cuts 3 inches long each; the zinc can then be bent up along the dotted lines.

Fig. 3. This represents the finished lid, the hole in which is placed over tank (Fig. 1), with the lid resting on the ground, and overlapping the tank evenly all round.

Fig. 4. Two loose pieces of zinc cut as shown to cover the hole in the lid and to act as free swinging platforms, so that when the mouse crosses them it will be tilted into the tank below. The broader ends of these tilting platforms must be heavy enough to bring the platforms up again, then the trap is self-setting.

Fig. 5. This is another figure of the lid (Fig. 3) with a piece of wire running across the turned up pieces of zinc to carry a bait which the mice can never reach.

The trap is placed below the seed hoppers, so that the falling seed falls on the platform and baits the trap.

To keep the birds away a wooden frame covered with wire netting is placed over the whole trap. The mice get under the frame to get at the seed, and suspect no trap at all. The tank contains an inch or so of water, which is enough in my opinion.

For a concrete floor I have made the lid and tank narrower, and placed the trap behind a box against the wall, with wooden platforms leading up to the lid of the trap.

It has been far and away the most successful trap I have used, keeping down the numbers of these aviary pirates admirably.

I have tried to adapt it for rats, but strange to say, I have never caught a rat in one—I think that rats are more suspicious—I must try a wooden lid and place the bait low down.

The Crystal Palace National Show.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

FOREIGN SECTION.

Though the fifty-third annual show of the L.P.O. Society was a success as a whole, this section was small indeed compared with previous years—the reason being undoubtedly, that two or three prominent exhibitors did not make any entries at all and, the severe weather doubtless deterred many others. Two classes were cancelled and the remaining eight classes received but sixty entries, a most disappointing result for the energetic L.P.O.S. officials. As usual, it was impossible to eliminate draught and the severity of the weather accentuated if anything, this chronic Palace trouble, and the birds seemed anything but comfortable under the existing conditions, in spite of the efforts of the management. There was only one probable "first appearance," viz., Mr. Hawkin's immature pairs of Blue-rumped Parrots (*Psittinus incertus*), most of the other beautiful and uncommon exhibits were noticed in our report of the recent show at the Horticultural Hall, in last issue of *Bird Notes*. Mr. H. T. Camps judged the Parrot classes, and Mr. Finn the remainder, and with one or two exceptions their awards were well received.

A.S. Parrakeets, Lorikeets, and Lories (10). No less than four Brown's Parrakeets were exhibited, of which the 1st prize winner was far ahead of its competitors. Owing to the severe weather the rare Lutino Ring-necked Parrakeet was an absentee.

1 and 3 W. Edmunds, Brown's Parrakeet, very rich colour, one of the best I have seen, and an equally good pair of Many-colours; 2, W. Baxby, excellent Pennant's Parrakeet; 4 and c., L.

W. Hawkins, good King, and Brown's Parrakeets; h.c., A. E. Bareham, Red Rosella, very rich colour; and G. Fletcher, Brown's Parrakeets, a good pair, but not tight in plumage. Mr. J. E. Mackenzie also exhibited excellent specimens of Ceram Lory and Red-naped Lorikeet, which unfortunately arrived too late for competition.

A.S. PARROTS, COCKATOOS, AND MACAWS (9): This class contained a nice (immature) pair of Blue-rumped Parrots (*Psittinus incertus*), which, had they been in adult plumage, would doubtless have carried off premier honours. In appearance they are Lovebirds, being about the same size as the Rosey-faced. Mr. S. Beaty possessed this species, either in 1910 or 1911, but unfortunately they did not live long, never getting over the prostration following importation, his birds were nearly adult, and the skin of the male came into my possession, its colouration is as follows: body colouring grass green, very silken above, with a sort of golden sheen here and there, many of the wing feathers finely margined with yellow; crown of the head dull blue, rump brighter blue; underside of wings bright red and white. The female has the top of the head brown. It ranges over Tenasserim, Borneo, etc., Mr. Hawkin's birds are much greyer than the above, being as yet in nesting plumage.

1 and 4, Rev. G. H. Raynor, Meyer's Parrot (♀) quite a veteran and a beauty, and Everett's Parrot, both uncommon and interesting species, the latter not so tight as the former; 2, L. W. Hawkins, Black-headed Caique, a richly coloured specimen; 3, Mrs. L. Thorpe, Yellow-naped Amazon, very rich colour, and distinct talker; v.h.c., L. W. Hawkins, Blue-rumped Parrots, a rare exhibit; J. Ditchfield (h.c.) and J. Montague (c) Blue-fronted Amazons. A Grand Eclectus and Le Vailliant's Amazon also competed.

CERTAIN NAMED COMMON SEEDEATERS (6): Mr. Howe took 1st and 3rd with exquisite and perfect pairs of Golden-breasted and St. Helena Waxbills; Miss M. Bousfield secured 2nd with an excellent pair of Diamond Finches; Madame Feist Madewell took 4th with one of the best pairs of Ribbon Finches I have seen; v.h.c., Miss Smyth, St. Helena Waxbill. Mr. A. C. Young's exhibit (pair of Ribbon Finches) unfortunately arrived too late for competition.

WAXBILLS, GRASSFINCHES, ETC. (5): Mr. F. Howe secured premier honours with a lovely Melba Finch, one of the best for colour, cleanly cut markings and tight plumage I have seen. Second prize went to Miss M. Bousfield's Red-headed Gouldian, grand colour and silky plumage. Dr. G. B. Thwaite's Pintailed Nonpariels (pair) secured third prize. A good pair of Black-headed Gouldians (Mr. W. Lyle) secured fourth prize. Mr. J. M. Walsh's uncommon Scaly-crowned Finch, a little rough in plumage, was awarded v.h.c.

A.S. GROSBEAKS, TRUE FINCHES, ETC. (6); 1, Miss St. A. Wait, Olive Finch, an unusually rich colour, and in faultless condition; 2, Mr. L. G. Arrighi, Black-headed Siskin (*C. icterica*); 3, Mrs E. Galloway, good pair of the uncommon Brown-winged Blue Grosbeak; 4, Mr. J. M. Walsh, good Green Cardinal, apparently colour-fed; v.h.c., Miss M. Bousfield, Black and Yellow Grosbeak (♀), rare, but rather rough in plumage; h.c. Mr. B. Heness, Green Cardinal.

A.S. TANAGERS (7): A beautiful array of tropical colour, but all have been previously referred to in our pages, and in Vol. II. (First Series) there was a coloured plate, with description of an earlier specimen of Mr. Townsend's on page 283. All the exhibits were in good form.

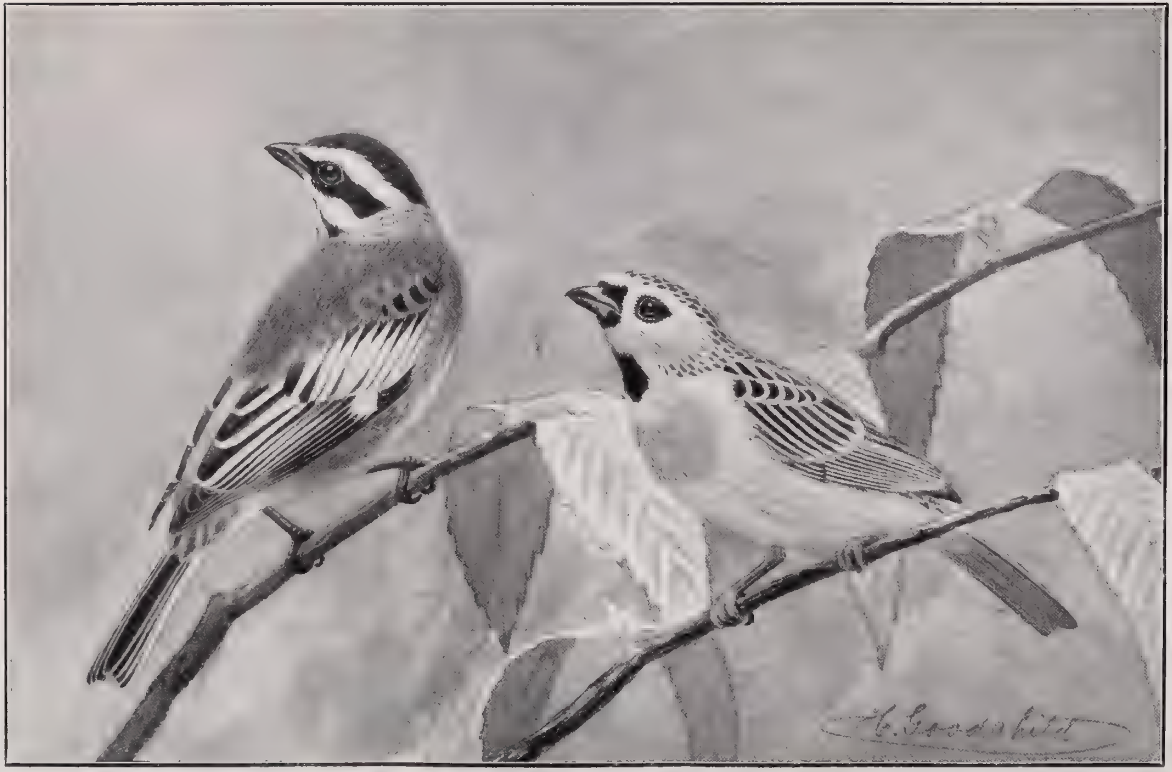
1, S. M. Townsend, Yellow (Gold and Green) Tanager; 2 and 3, J. M. Walsh, Black-throated (*see plate*) and Maroon Tanagers; 4, J. Frostick, good Pretre's Tanager (*see plate*); v.h.c., T. Erskine, Blue Tanager; h.c., Mrs. L. Thynne, Maroon Tanager; c., Miss E. N. Dooly, Scarlet Tanager.

A.S. SUGARBIRDS, SUNBIRDS, ETC. (8): Mr. Ezra exhibited the Amethyst-rumped Sugarbird, which he has so successfully moulted in this country, and Mr. Frostick exhibited another which, had been secured in the full depth of natural colouring, though there were *slight* traces of importation still on its plumage, thus it was a battle between an English moulted specimen (yellow of breast paler than in the wild bird) and a wild specimen in full natural colour—the judge decided in favour of the former, his decision causing some argument during the course of the show. Owing to the cold and draught the writer did not get an opportunity of examining the 1st prize winner, as it was partially covered up and standing by the hot water pipes, while the show was open to the public on the Friday and Saturday. However, in my opinion the 1st prize should have been awarded to Mr. Townsend's Black-legged (Palish Blue) Sugarbird, which was the rarest bird in the show, and in exquisite condition, as also was Mr. Frostick's Purple Sunbird.

1, A. Ezra, Amethyst-rumped Sunbird; 2, S. M. Townsend, Black-legged Blue-Sugarbird (*Dacnis nigripes*), a perfect gem, a glistening mite in shining blue and black; 3, S. M. Townsend, good Banana Quit; 4, and v.h.c., J. Frostick, Purple and Amethyst-rumped Sunbirds, a couple of minute "feathered exquisites" in full natural colour. Mr. A. C. Young exhibited excellent specimens of Hardwick's Fruitsucker and Rufous-throated Sugarbird, which unfortunately arrived too late for competition.

ANY OTHER SPECIES (8); One of the smallest entries for this class for many years. All the entrants were in good form and have been already noted in our Journal.

1, A. Ezra, Japanese Redbreast (*Erithacus akahige*) rare and fascinating; 2 and 3, J. M. Walsh, Black-headed Sibias (*see plate*), and White-eye-browed Wood-Swallow, both in grand form; 4, L. M. Wade, good Shama; v.h.c., E. Thorne, Troupial; v.h.c., Miss M. Bousfield, a good Common Hangnest.



Pretre's (*Spindalis pretrei*) and Black-throated (*Calliste thoracia*) Tanagers.
Exhibited by J. Frostick and J. M. Walsh respectively at C.P. Show.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

165 Abraham's Memorial Trophy for Rarest Foreign Bird: S. M. Townsend, Black-legged Blue Sugarbird (*Dacnis nigripes*).

166 Trophy presented by P. Pier, Esq., New South Wales, for best Australian Bird in the show: Brown's Parrakeet (*Platycercus browni*), W. Edmunds.

167 Silver Medal presented by C.P. Co., for best bird, other than winners of specials 165 and 166: (not noted).

168 Palace Bronze Medal for best v.h.c. in classes 146 to 148: G. Fletcher, Brown's Parrakeet (*P. browni*).

169 Palace Bronze Medal for best v.h.c. in classes 149 to 156: Mrs. E. Thorne, Troupial (failed to note species).

170 L.P.O.S. Bronze Medal for most points in classes 152 and 153: Mr. S. M. Townsend.

171 Silver Challenge Cup for best bird in classes 146 to 156: J. M. Walsh, Black-throated Tanager (*Calliste thorocia*).

172 2s. 6d. presented by Mr. C. W. Law for best h.c. in classes 146 to 148: J. Ditchfield, Blue-fronted Amazon (*Chrysotis æstiva*).

173 2s. 6d. presented by Mr. C. W. Law, for best h.c. in classes 149 to 156: Mrs. L. M. Thynne, Maroon Tanager (*Rhampocælus jacapa*).

F.B.C. MEMBERS' SPECIALS.

174 2s. 6d. presented by Miss Alfreda Smyth for best v.h.c. in classes 152 and 153: J. Frostick, Amethyst-rumped Sundird (*Arachnechthra zeylonica*).

175 Silver Medal for best bird in classes 146 to 148: Rev. G. H. Raynor, Meyer's Parrot (*Pæocephalus meyeri*).

176 Silver Medal for best bird in classes 149 to 155: A. Ezra, Amethyst-rumped Sunbird (*A. zeylonica*).

Points re Cup Competition not computed at time of going to press.

2s. 6d. presented by Miss M. E. Baker for most points in class 147: Mr. W. Baxby.

2s. 6d. presented by Miss M. E. Baker for most points in class 150: Mr. F. Howe.

BRITISH SECTION.

There was a goodly entry of really first-class birds in this section, nearly all of which were in excellent form. In the eleven classes devoted to Bullfinches, Goldfinches, Linnet, Siskin, Chaffinch; Bramblefinch, Hawfinch, and Redpolls, there were no less than 294 entries, including many very beautiful specimens of the respective species.

In the Bunting class were to be seen: Meadow, Corn, Snow, Reed, and Lapland Buntings, all in good form. Colville and Son, G. Henderson, and W. Francis, secured the awards in the order given. In the three classes for Blackbirds, Thrushes, and Starlings, there were 24 exhibits, mostly grand birds. A. J. A. Marley, S.

Johnson, and A. and O. Wellings were the first prize winners in the respective classes.

The class for Rare Feathered Species contained some very interesting birds, viz.: A Lutino Yellow Bunting without a foul feather (1st, Martin and Archer); A most interesting and evenly marked pied Tree Pipit (2nd, S. H. Mays), a perfect picture; a nice Silver Starling (3rd, J. M. Walsh); Cinnamon Starling (4th, Rowe and Richards), very rough legs, evidently an aged specimen. A beautiful Pied Blackbird, White Blackbird and Thrush, Pied and Cinnamon Linnets, completes an interesting class.

Nightingale or Blackcap: Six competed, 4 Blackcaps, and 2 Nightingales—all in good form.—F. J. Evans, Otto Puck, J. Jeffrey, and J. Frostick, were the prize winners in the order given.

A.O.S. Resident (11): Every competitor a gem; forming a most interesting array of indigenous species. Mr. J. Frostick's Dartford Warbler (a grand bird in every respect) secured premier honours; an equally good Tree Creeper, beautifully staged (S. H. Mays), was second; a Bearded Tit (W. Buckingham) was a good third; and a perfect Hedge Sparrow (F. Collins) carried off the fourth prize. Two Nuthatches, a Meadow Pipit, a Bearded Tit, and a Shore-lark (W.C.) also competed.

A.O.S. Migratory (Small): Another very interesting class of 12 exhibits, consisting of: Willow Warbler (4th), Black Redstart, Wheat-ears (3rd), Lesser Whitethroat, Whinchat, Crossbill, and Wryneck (1st); all in excellent form. M. Woodhouse (1); S. H. Mays (2 and 3), and J. Maggs (4) were the owners of the winning birds.

A.O.S. Resident or Migratory (13): The most interesting bird in this class was a Dipper (*Cinclus aquaticus*), the first, I think to appear on the show bench, a most difficult species to keep in captivity; it deservedly carried off premier honours. We also noticed good Waxwing (2nd), Missel Thrushes (one of these (4th) was an enormous bird, richly coloured and well marked), Ring Ouzel (3rd), Redwing (very wild), and a good Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. Miss G. Fishburn, Miss M. Bousfield, W. Wagg, and H. Bisset were the owners of the prize winners in the order given. There was also a Novice Section, with some very interesting classes and large entries, which space does not permit us to notice. Among the hybrids we noticed the following crosses, many of which are quite difficult to obtain.

Goldfinch x Bullfinch.
Linnet x Bullfinch.
Redpoll x Bullfinch.
Greenfinch x Bullfinch.
Goldfinch x Greenfinch.
Greenfinch x Chaffinch
Redpoll x Greenfinch.
Linnet x Greenfinch.
Goldfinch x Siskin.
Goldfinch x Redpoll.

No less than 33 of these crosses were staged, some really beautiful birds were among them; the rarest being the Greenfinch x Chaffinch, which showed clearly its parentage.

Book Notices and Reviews.

British Birds Nests, By R. Kearton, F.Z.S., with photos by C. Kearton. Cassell and Co. In 17 fortnightly parts, 7d. net.

From the prospectus the above promises to be very comprehensive—its purpose being to show how, where, and when to find, and identify British Birds' Nests, and it promises to fully accomplish its object. It will be difficult indeed for any future work to equal this almost unparalled production.

Part I. Among the illustrations are a Linnet's nest and a plate of eggs, both good reproductions of colour photography. Also a number of other photo reproductions of nests in *situ*. The text is well and clearly printed and interspersed with figures of the species dealt with, which are as follows: Bittern; Blackbird; Blackcap; Bullfinch; Cirl, Corn, Reed, and Snow Buntings; Common, Honey, and Rough-legged Buzzards; Capercaille; Chaffinch; Chiffchaff, Chough. The text is comprehensive, yet lucidly and tersely written. We quote the following paragraph from the account of the Blackcap.

> "Situation and Locality: In brambles, grass, thick "hedges, nettles, and gooseberry bushes, in gardens, orchards; "thickets, shrubberies, and other suitable places, at heights "varying from two to ten or twelve feet from the ground. In "all parts of England and Wales, and more sparingly in Scotland "and Ireland. It is a very widely distributed bird."

It is a marvel of cheapness, and we cordially commend it to our readers.

Editorial.

Black-headed Sibia and Himalayan Whistling Thrush: Show Notes have claimed so much of our space this month, that we were unable to deal with these two species as they deserved. Mr. Goodchild has kindly compiled some notes of the wild life of the two species, and these together with notes of their treatment in captivity will appear in our next issue.

Winter Nestlings: The young Cutthroats which left the nest in December in my aviary have been fully reared, and are vigorous young birds. We received from Dr. P. Gosse, a postcard dated February 1st, with the following terse message: "Young Cutthroats left the nest to-day." From other aviaries rumours of early nesting have been prevalent.

Black Tanagers and the Winter: A pair of this species built in December, engaged in incubation duties—in an open nest in the open flight of their aviary—during the early part of January. Three young chicks were duly hatched out and lived for three days, when the hen died from pneumonia, contracted while incubating during such weather, and the male bird then threw out the chicks. I will anticipate a storm of censure by saving, that till I heard the young calling for food, I had no idea of what was going on, or I should not have permitted it, but she looked so fit and well wher I discovered the young that I had not the heart to destroy them. I may say she showed no signs of illness, whatever. and died either during the night or early morning—this species is quite hardy out of doors all the year round. In this instance it was the sitting in an open nest, during the gales of driving rain and cold winds that wrought the mischief.

HOODED PARRAKEETS: Our esteemed member, Mr. H. D. Astley, has had eggs from his pair of *Psephotus cucullatus*, but unfortunately with no result. The first clutch (3) were laid in November, but they were infertile. In December another clutch of three were laid and steadily incubated, but after a period of about four weeks the eggs were examined, one was clear, the other two contained young birds, decomposed but nearly fully formed. It would appear that Mr. Astley has a good prospect of breeding this lovely species during the coming season. We certainly hope so.

ERRATA:

Page 2 line 25, for "Pietre's," read—Pretre's.

Page 2, bottom line, delete "also during," and insert —of.

Page 3, line 11, after "so far," insert—).

Page 21, line 26, for "compas," read—compass.

Page 26, line 8 from bottom, for "*Gallinuta*" read —*Gallinula*.

Page 29, line 27, for "page 12," read—page 15.

THE MAGAZINE: We regret that owing to pressure on our space by Show Reports, we have had to hold over many interesting articles, *e.g.*, Mr. Temple's Aviaries; and Miss Thorburn's Out-door Cages (both illustrated), and others —these will appear in next issue. The Show Season 1911 and 1912 will soon be merged into the breeding season, 1912, and we hope our members will have many interesting episodes to record.

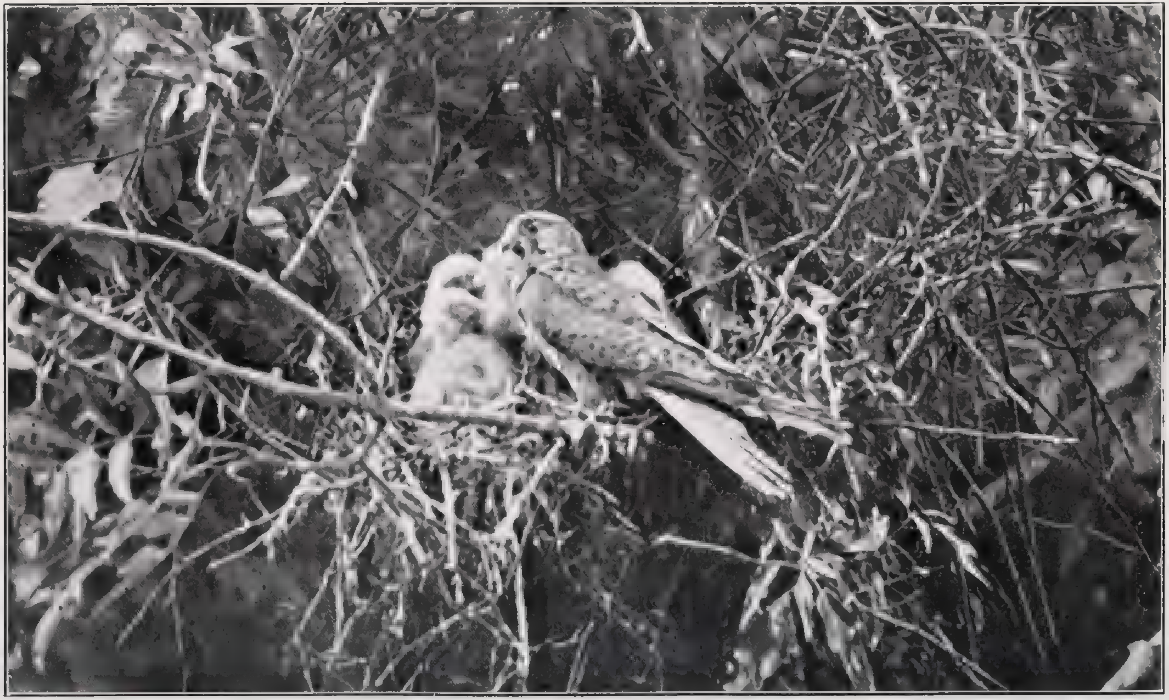


Photo by H. Willford

The Home of the Kestrel Hawk.

Male feeding Young.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Bird Life Through the Camera.

THE KESTREL HAWK.

(*Falco tinnunculus, Linnaeus*).

BY H. WILLFORD.

The Kestrel Hawk is to be found ranging over our entire islands, and is comparatively well known by most of us; few there are who have not at some time or other observed its wonderful evolutions in mid air, at one moment apparently suspended motionless, at the next travelling at a great speed, to again soar high into the heavens, constantly on the look out for food.

During the summer of 1911 I had under almost constant observation for five days, a nest of five young Kestrels, and their parents.

Having discovered the nest, which was the deserted home of a Magpie; at the top of a large ash tree in the centre of a disused chalk pit, I was desirous of obtaining photographs of the old birds feeding their offspring, but how to go about it was a fair conundrum.

It was impossible to climb to the nest itself for this was on quite a slender branch, that would not bear any heavy weight; so observation was kept from some bushes at the top of the pit, on the old birds until it was deemed that the young were about three weeks old, then at early dusk one summer evening, my assistant and I climbed the tree as high as possible, fastening a piece of rope to the branch containing the nest and sucuring this to another bough. We then sawed the first branch off the tree, letting it come down to within a few feet of the ground head first, but it naturally was foreseen, that the nest being thickly domed, it was impossible for the young to fall out and thereby come to harm.

From below, the rope was removed and fastened higher up so that the branch and nest could be hauled up, appearing in much the same place it was in before, and here it was left till the next morning, when on visiting it we found that the young had been fed and the old birds in no way alarmed.

The next four or five days the nest was visited each evening, and lowered some three feet each time till at length it was only some nine feet from the ground, so far so good, our next step was to plant the hiding tent, and here we were favoured by a large clump of brambles, which later entirely hid the tent from view, although from time to time we added to its covering, owing to withering of the leaves.

From the little peep-hole in the tent the old birds could be plainly seen, and no one who has not watched these lovely little hawks flying on the nest, and feeding their young at only a distance of six feet, without the slightest fear or knowledge that they were being watched, could credit the pleasure and excitement in this form of sport and bird study.

The first time the bird came to the nest after I was hidden I could hear my heart thumping with excitement, feeling so pleased to have got at such close range that I nearly forgot to make the exposure of my plate.

During the five days' observations from the tent, the parents brought only three birds (two larks, and a thrush), all the other food consisted of mice and small rats, and these, the old birds would tear up and feed their young with ; remaining about three minutes on the nest, and visiting it every one or two hours.

The noise the old birds made, just before pitching on the nest, was deafening, they generally circled round once or twice, calling, and the young would answer with a shriller cry, then the cock or hen would drop down on the nest with perhaps a young rat, which was greedily devoured, bones and all.

There was one pathetic note, in spite of the only too apparent joy, amongst these strenuous denizens of the woods and fields, for amongst their number was one very much smaller than the rest, and although he was always first to hear the call of the old birds and push to the front of the nest, by the time the food was being handed round *he* wasn't in the picture, except as a back-ground, being pushed there time after time by his brethren, each day he became weaker and one morning was found missing, no doubt having formed a meal for his canabalistic brothers and sisters—truly the weakest to the wall.

The old birds, as long as they saw no movement did not mind one's voice in the least, I began by talking gently to them to see what would happen, but in the end I tried shouting, but even this they scarcely heeded, yet move so much as a finger within range of their vision and they are gone in a flash.

The sexes differed very slightly in this pair, the cock having the head and back of neck rather more bluish, also the tail. The young are covered with thick yellowish white down for some little time after hatching.

The clutch usually consists of five eggs, which are freely blotched with dark red on a light grey ground. The nest was an old one, formerly tenanted by a Magpie or Crow. In conclusion I may say that the remaining four young soon left the nest and suffered no ill effects from the removal of their home to lower regions, whilst young and old have now nothing to fear from the hands of a certain keeper, to whom I have been able to prove that their livelihood consists chiefly of vermin and not game.

(To be Continued)

Post Mortem Reports.

(*Vide Rules*).

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. *must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.*

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st *of any month.*

It would greatly help me to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. were in sending me dead birds to state the source they obtained the birds from and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

GREENFINCH (♂). (Miss J. E. Pethie, Lymington, Hants). The cause of death was enteritis. Greenfinches are very subject to this complaint. They are fond of sunflower seed, which is beneficial to them. In future give a fuller history of management, etc., and observe the rules more closely.

VIRGINIAN CARDINALS (♂). (Lady Webster). This bird was in splendid plumage and in good condition. The cause of death was heart failure following convulsions, set up by the intense cold.

Pagoda Starling. (W. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts). Cause of death, bird fever. The liver was crammed with yellowish nodules It is a very contagious disease. Young Gouldian Finch, Cause of death, acute fatty degeneration of the liver. Cock Squamaba Quail, Cause of death, coccidial or protozoal enteritis. It is very contagious, particularly in gallinaceous birds.

Singing-finch. (Miss St. A. Wait, 12 Rosary Gardens, S.W.). Cause of death, enlargement and softening of liver.

Quail. (Countess von Hahn, Wimbledon). The cause of death was intestinal intoxication set up by the seed passing into the intestine, without being predigested in the gizzard, which was absolutely empty of grit, so necessary for gallinaceous birds. The intestine was full of undigested seed.

Pekin Robin (♂). (A. C. Young, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The cause of death was pneumonia. The liver was very friable, black and congested.

Red-legged Thrush (♂). (W. Shore Bailey). Cause of death, inflammation of bowels, congested and softened liver.

Cordon-Bleu and Cock Rufous-tail. (H. W. Mathias, Lucerne, Stubbington). Cause of death, pneumonia and enteritis.

Foreign Finches. (H. Willford). All died from pneumonia, due to sudden change in weather.

Answered by Post:—The Hon. Mary C. Hawke (3), Miss E. F. Chawner, Miss Augusta Bruce, Frank Howe.

H. GRAY M.R.C.V.S.

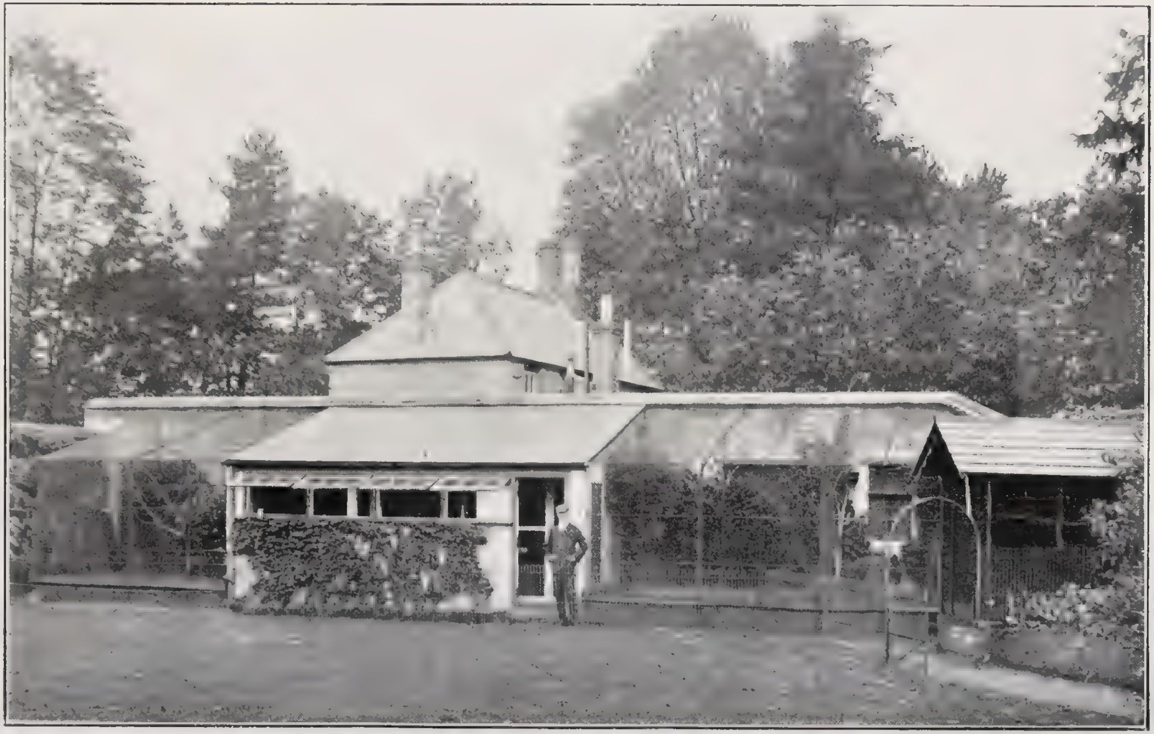
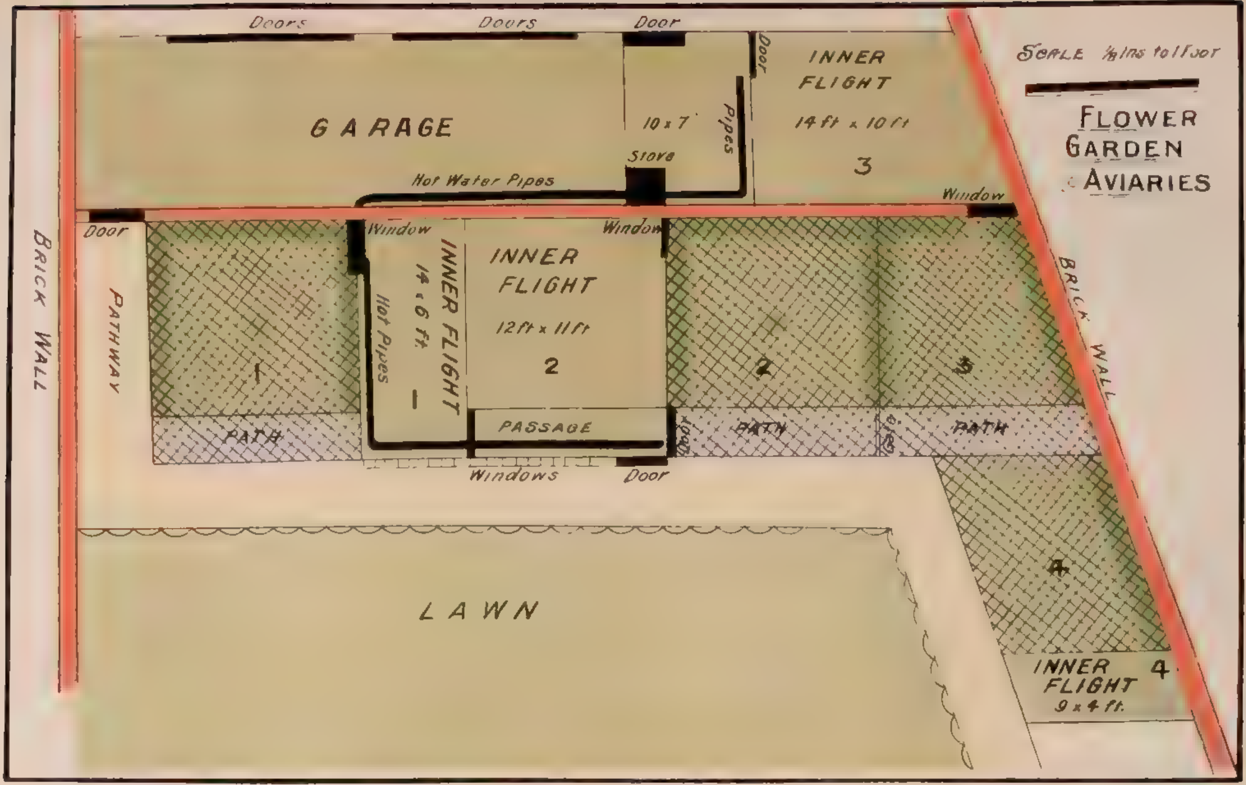


Photo by W. R. Temple.

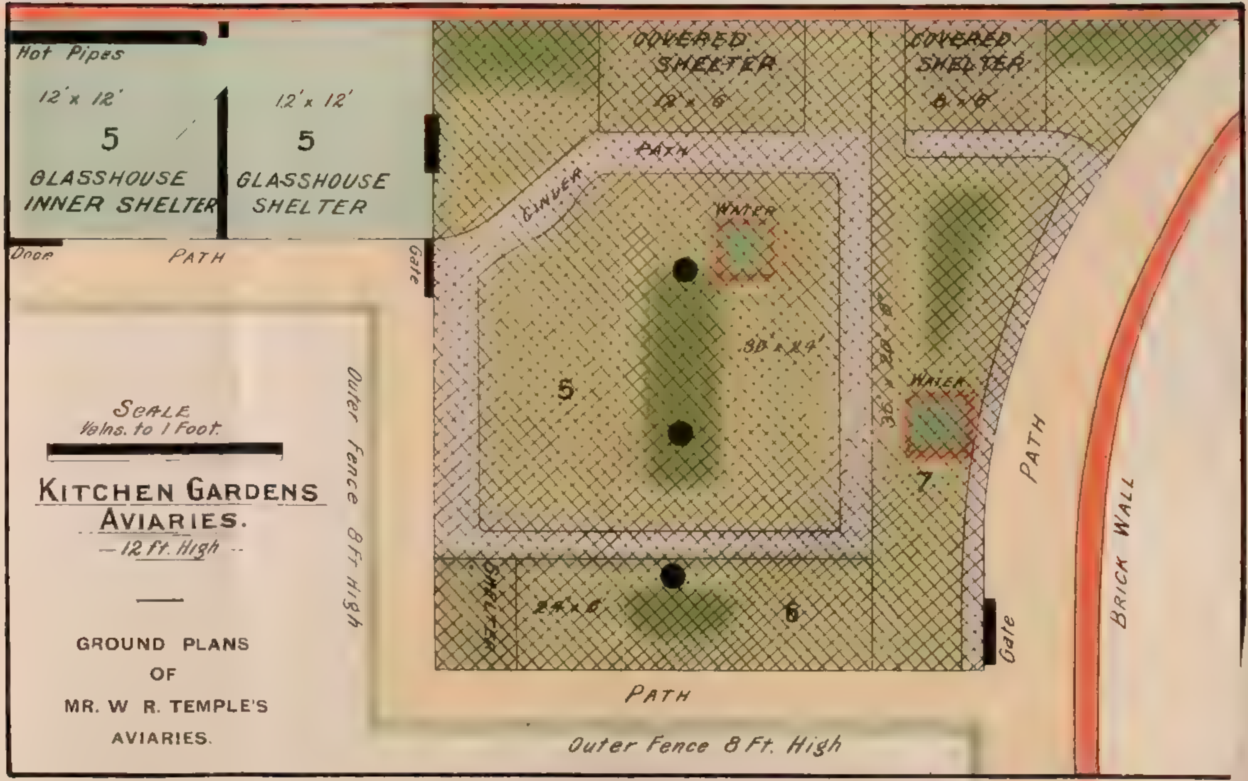
Mr. W. R. Temple's Aviaries (Flower Garden).



FLOWER GARDEN AVIARIES

SCALE ⅛ins to 1 Foot

Doors
Doors
Door
Door
GARAGE
10 x 7
Stove
Pipes
Hot Water Pipes
INNER FLIGHT
14 ft x 10 ft
3
Window
BRICK WALL
Door
PATHWAY
1
Window
Hot Pipes
INNER FLIGHT
14 x 6 ft
1
INNER FLIGHT
12 ft x 11 ft
2
Window
PASSAGE
2
3
PATH
PATH
PATH
Door
Gate
Windows
Door
BRICK WALL
LAWN
4
INNER FLIGHT
9 x 4 ft.
4



KITCHEN GARDENS AVIARIES.

—12 ft. High—

GROUND PLANS OF MR. W R. TEMPLE'S AVIARIES.

SCALE ⅛ins. to 1 Foot.

Hot Pipes
12' x 12'
5
GLASSHOUSE INNER SHELTER
12' x 12'
5
GLASSHOUSE SHELTER
Door
PATH
Gate
COVERED SHELTER
12 x 6
COVERED SHELTER
6 x 6
CINDER
PATH
WATER
30' x 24'
5
36' x 20'
WATER
7
SHELTER
24 x 6
6
Gate
PATH
BRICK WALL
Outer Fence 8 Ft. High
PATH
Outer Fence 8 Ft. High

J H Henstock, Printer, Ashbourne

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Mr. Temple's Aviaries and Birds.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., Etc.

In last vol. of *B.N.* under "Visits to Members' Aviaries," on page 344, I made brief comments on these aviaries, and owing to trusting entirely to memory went astray as to their number, instead of four, there are seven; four in the flower garden and three in the kitchen garden, and, as Mr. Temple has kindly drawn plans to scale, and supplied photographs (which illustrate this article), a fuller description is called for. Mr. Temple has also supplied me with some notes, from which I am able to give a brief history of these aviaries.

The plans and photos render unnecessary any very elaborate description; the method of planting, and laying out of ground space is very clearly shown on the plans, and a feature of the large aviaries in the kitchen garden were the fine clumps of Bamboos, seven or more feet high, and the rampant creepers, clothing the standards and tie rods. The character of the shelter shed and winter quarters is well indicated in the photo, showing a group of Gouldian Finches. These aviaries are not an eyesore, but a pleasing feature of the garden.

The shelters of these aviaries are well lighted, well ventilated, and fitted with an ample hot-water service, and the flights are naturally arranged, with turf, and various evergreens and creepers.

The heating apparatus is set going near the end of September, and kept going till about the end of March. Electric light is laid on and can be switched on from the house, so that in winter the birds get the advantage of a late and early feed.

The aviaries were commenced in 1908, and in that year the following were hatched out and lived to disport themselves about the aviary.

10 Gouldian Finches
3 Long-tailed Grassfinches
4 Ruficauda Finches
13 Parrot Finches
3 Harlequin Quails

Besides the above, there were others which did not leave the nest, and this was the fate of all the young Firefinches, and Cordon Bleus.

1909. This was a bad year, but the following were fully reared, forming a sort of set-off against many disasters:

13 Black-cheeked Lovebirds
4 Cordon Bleus
5 Parrot Finches
4 Harlequin Quails
6 Chinese Painted Quails

Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*), these nested, and produced many eggs, but no young were reared.

Parrot Finches (*Erythrura psittacea*). As regards this species I had better quote Mr. Temple *in extenso*. "I " started this season with 16 adult Parrot Finches. One pair " of certain breeders had an aviary to themselves, but at " end of May I found the hen dead on the nest from a soft " egg, she had been *sitting* on five eggs for twelve days, " each egg contained a young bird. The other fourteen were " in the large aviary (No. 5). Three couples were busily " incubating clutches, when they all became ill, with some " form of liver complaint, and between June 20 and July 7, " eleven of them died — very disappointing, as nearly " every egg of the above clutches contained a young bird. " This disease did not in any way affect the remainder or " any of the other birds in the aviary, though there were a " number of Pin-tailed Nonpareils (*Erythrura prasina*), Green " Avadavats (*Stictospiza formosa*), Firefinches (*Lagonosticta* " *minima*), Golden-breasted Waxbills (*Sporæginthus subflavus*), " Cordon Bleus (*Estrilda phœnicotis*), etc."

1910. This year results were more regular, and one species was bred, which had not hitherto nested in these aviaries, viz., the Tri-coloured Parrot Finch (*Erythrura trichroa*). The actual results were as follows:

14 Parrot Finches
9 Three-coloured Parrot Finches
5 Harlequin Quails
5 Chinese Painted Quails

One of the most interesting features of this season was the nesting of Pin-tailed Nonpareils, but unfortunately

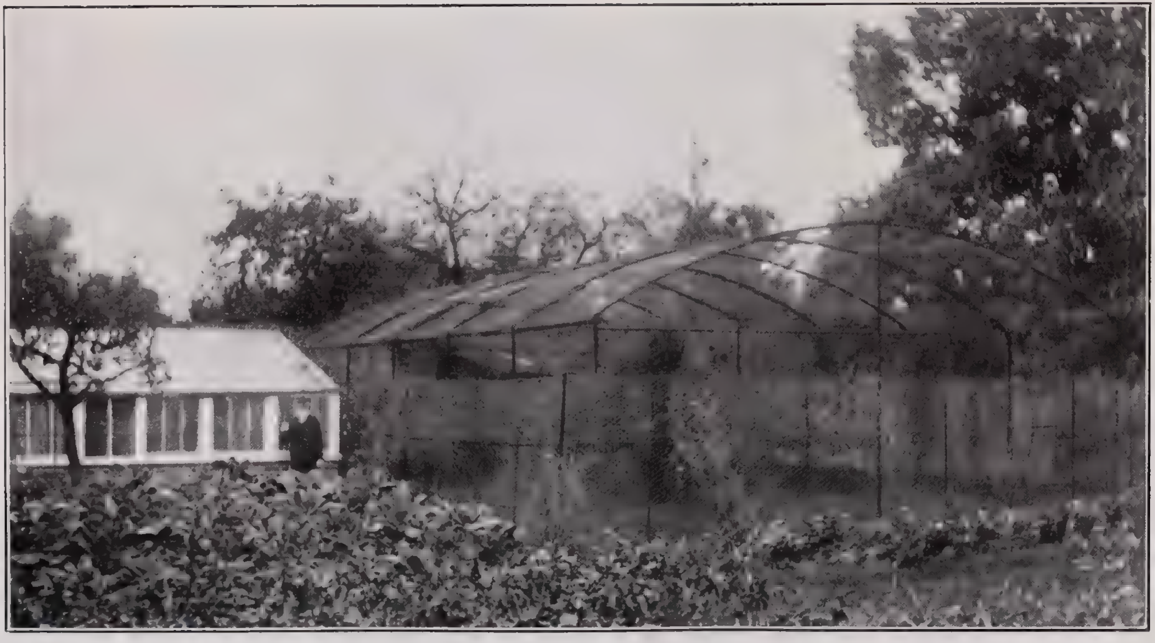

Photo by W, R. Temple.

Mr. W. R. Temple's Aviaries (Kitchen Garden).

Photo by W. R. Temple.

Group of Gouldian Finches in Shelter of one of Mr. W. R. Temples Aviaries.

none were fully reared, this species has not yet been bred in captivity, and the event is of special interest. This pair of birds had lived in the aviary for two years, and were in splendid feather and very robust. The clutch consisted of four eggs,* the first of which was laid on April 26, and incubation commenced on May 1st, between May 16 and 18, three young were hatched, but they only lived five days, and were thrown out of the nest on May 23rd.

Long- and Rufous-tailed Grassfinches also nested but all their eggs were infertile.

1911. The records for this year had also better appear in Mr. Temple's own words:

1911: "A very bad season, and only the following "were fully reared:

7 Parrot Finches	5 Jacarini Finches
7 Ruficauda Finches	3 Harlequin Quails
4 Long-tailed Grassfinches	

"The most interesting event in the aviaries this year "was the hatching and partial rearing (*vide Bird Notes*, "Vol. II., N.S., p. 284) of four young Tree Creepers. I "was hoping for success in 1912, but a servant let the cock "out of the aviary in November, and the hen died the follow- "month! Over forty young Parrot Finches died in the shell, "and the same occurred with other species also, and, I hear, "the same thing happened in other aviaries, and also among "pigeons. I presume the very hot, *dry* summer was the "cause."

HOPES FOR 1912: Mr. Temple tells me he is having one end of the large aviary, No. 5, fitted up, with eaves, to accommodate a very healthy, true pair of Swallows, and hopes to succeed in breeding them.

METHOD OF FEEDING: Mr. Temple supplies canary, white, and brown millet seeds (in separate hoppers), millet sprays; also several mealworms *per diem* per pair. When young are being fed Insectile Mixture is supplied, and the number of mealworms increased.

One can only be surprised that results have not been larger and more regular, considering the space and natural character of these really fine aviaries—yet the aviculturist of some experience with a fair knowledge of the idiosyncrasies of the class AVES, has learned that such experiences are inseparable from the cult of aviculture.

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* If Mr. Temple can describe the eggs, it would be of interest. ED.

Notes on the Breeding of Tanagers.

By J. Easton Scott, M.A., M.B.Ch.B.

Not only do the Tanagers make one of the most interesting groups of birds from what one might call the spectacular point of view, but until comparatively recently so few have been successfully bred in captivity, that the nesting of these birds has a special fascination to those of us who are interested in the breeding of foreign birds. So often are one's hopes raised, so seldom are they fulfilled! As a nation we are recognised for our dogged pluck—for our fortitude in the face of disappointment and failure. What proportions these characteristics would assume if we were all members of some National F.B.C.—all determined to achieve success in the breeding and rearing of foreign birds—it is difficult to think, but at any rate we should be a nation of Stoics! Fate is never more teasingly capricious than between the time the nest is built and that at which the young are able to take care of themselves. It has been said recently in our Magazine that it is almost impossible to breed any insectivorous birds if other insectivora are kept in the same aviary. This may be true, though I am more inclined to think that so long as the *species* are not the same the breeding birds suffer little disturbance. [The difficulty is not one of disturbance but to keep up an adequate supply of live-food, with so many ready to snap up every insect as soon as they are put in the aviary.—Ed.] The following notes perhaps savour more of failure than success, but I cannot describe the failures to the interference of other birds. In the aviary where these episodes took place, besides numerous seed-eaters, there were Grey-winged Ouzels, Rufous-throated Sugarbirds, Superb, Tricolour, Pretre's, Scarlet, and Blue Tanagers, and though they were carefully watched in case of disasters, the birds never seemed to interfere with each other, either by quarrelling or by curiosity. There were, however, only one pair, or odd birds, of each species.

The Tanagers were turned into this fairly large garden aviary, at the beginning of May, 1911. The Blue Tanagers (*Tanagra episcopus*) were the first to think about nesting, and though various nesting materials were to be found in this place, their choice fell upon a piece of somewhat frayed rope. This they unpicked assiduously—though owing to the hen bird having an injured wing, the cock did most of the work on the rope, which was hanging high up. The nest was a beautifully woven, open structure, and the site chosen was on one of the wall-plates in the sheltered house. The hen did most of the actual building, carefully laying in the strands of fluffy hemp, and binding them over with stouter strands of the same material. The sides were built up first and then the floor was filled in with bits of rooty stuff found in the aviary, and scraps of paper. The nest, commenced about the 15th May, was completed by the 21st. On the 23rd the first egg was laid. It was a little smaller than a Thrush's, of a pale blue colour, speckled and blotched with brown. A similar shell had been found the day before on the ground, so in reality two eggs had been laid, when the one in the nest got broken. No more eggs were laid and by the 26th, the birds decided to shift their quarters, choosing now a laurel bush. The original nest was demolished, and the materials used to make the second one. I was then from home for a week, but on my return on the 3rd June, I found one egg in the new nest. Another egg was laid and incubation began, the hen alone sitting. On the 18th one young bird was hatched, the other egg was infertile. Both parents now began to feed the youngster, and except for the insects caught in the flight by the birds themselves,the only live food given consisted of mealworms, and these were always killed before they gave them to the baby. On the 6th July it left the nest, a strong little bird of a general ashy-grey colour with a blue tinge on the wings. Even after a few days the ashen-grey became more distinctly blue, and faint indications of the pearl shoulders appeared. By the beginning of August the old nest was furbished up, and two eggs were again laid. The hen ceased to feed her first-born, and any mealworms she got went down her own throat. But the cock continued to look after it, till it was well able to take care of itself. This bird is interesting as being the first of its species bred and fully reared in captivity.

After sitting on the second clutch for about ten days, the hen deserted the nest and built another in an adjoining bush. By the 20th August two more eggs were laid, but again the nest was deserted, and no further attempt at nesting was made, the birds going into an early moult. Unfortunately the hen bird died about the end of November, but the cock consoled himself with the young bird, which there is little doubt is a hen.

Coincidently with these events there were interesting things going on in another laurel bush close by. A nest not unlike that of the Blues, but constructed chiefly of hay, was occupied by the Scarlets. When discovered, by the hen flying off, it contained two eggs similar in size to those of the Blues, but of a deeper colour, and with black spots at the larger end. On the 6th July, the day the young Blue left the nest, two young Scarlets were hatched, making a red-letter day in the history of the aviary. By the 16th July both birds were quilled and rapidly feathering. On the 18th one died, and on the 19th the remaining bird left the nest. In general colouring it was a dark ruddy brown with a distinctly reddish breast. The parents were very assiduous in feeding it, but, in spite of their care, it was found dead three days after leaving the nest. The only live food given was a liberal supply of mealworms, but I am inclined to think that the weather was largely accountable for the death of what was apparently a strong little bird. At that time we were experiencing a prolonged drought, and the ground was so hard and dry, that there was a very great shortage of insect life. By the 4th August two eggs were again laid in the old nest, and incubation commenced. On the 15th and 16th, two young were hatched, and again the parents did their duty well. But on the 22nd both young birds disappeared. leaving no trace behind. A third attempt was made by the parents and again two eggs were hatched out. At this time I was from home but the young birds disappeared mysteriously once more, about a week after they were hatched. And although every corner of the aviary was searched no sign of them could be found. Whether these disappearances were due to the attentions of mice or not, I do not know; but a fourth attempt resulted in only one bird being hatched, and after surviving and doing well for a week, it also totally disappeared. Some writers have accused the cock Scarlet of infanticide, but I can scarcely imagine he could have "covered his tracks" so well as was the case in these instances.

To again revert to the question of insectivora breeding in company, it may be of interest to state that while these Tanagers were busy providing the material for these notes, two Grey-winged Ouzels of separate clutches were fully reared; and the Rufous-throated Sugarbirds got so far as to hatch out two young birds, which, however, only survived a few days.

The above remarks, I am afraid, do not make very cheerful reading, but I think they may encourage us to hope that before many seasons have gone, we shall have a large number of interesting results from these interesting birds. And I hope that my failures may be a stimulus rather than a deterrent to my fellow-members, to study the requirements and conditions which are most likely to bring forth the best results.

The Nesting of Pekin Robins.

By F. Chawner.

In the autumn of 1909 I bought a true pair of Pekin Robins. They were practically featherless, and had to be kept for some weeks in a cage until they had grown feathers enough to cover them and to enable them to fly about the garden aviary. The August of 1910 they showed signs of wishing to nest and I fixed up an old wicker cuff-protector, which they took to at once, and made in it a very neat cup nest out of dried bents and a little moss. Unfortunately they were disturbed by a Weaver, who persisted in making a dome to the cuff; this the Pekins resented, and in the fracas the eggs were demolished.

This year (June 23rd) they took possession of a small basket hanging from a bough in the roofed part of their aviary, and made a nest of the same type as last year's. Two large eggs, much the size of a Greenfinch's were deposited, and both birds incubated them, though the hen took the greater share of the work. The young hatched July 5th, and the parents fed them on very small mealworms and caterpillars. They carefully carried away the excreta, dropping them generally at the far end of the aviary. When the young were three days old, living "ants' eggs" and wasp grubs were added to their menu, and all the flies which the old birds could catch. The young grew very fast and became loudly vociferous when fed. They left the nest July 16th, and did not return to it again. Their plumage was grey and downy, with faintly red beaks, no sign of tail, and they were quite unable to fly, but took long leaps, and were exceedingly active.

On July 23rd, the old birds went to nest again; this time the clutch consisted of three eggs. The cock now took entire charge of the first brood, leaving to the hen the duty of incubating, though he would relieve her if she called him so that she could come off for a few minutes to feed and bathe. He now gave his nestlings mouthfuls of cucumber and curd or bread and milk to supplement the live food. By July 31st they were strong on the wings and were beginning to feed themselves, but their tails did not show at all until August 8th.

The second brood was hatched August 5th, and the elder nestlings at once helped to feed the babies, showing astonishing dexterity. The second brood left the nest August 14th, but two soon afterwards died. I think they were driven rather prematurely from the nest by the intense heat.

By August 19th the indefatigable birds were sitting again on two eggs, still in the same nest. But the heat forced them to forsake and one egg was found to be addled and the other contained a dead chick. The first nestlings started to sing, August 26th, and soon rivalled their father, from whom they were now almost indistinguishable though their colouring was slightly paler.

It was very pretty to watch Pekin's ways with his family: he was a devoted and careful father, and considered the morals and manners of his children, as well as their appetites. He taught them how to bathe, combed their feathers afterwards, showed them where to find food and a snug corner to roost in, and occasionally chastised them. One day he surprised his eldest son teasing the baby, who had only just left the nest. Big brother was dancing up and down in front of baby, alternately offering a mealworm and then snatching it away out of reach. Pekin immediately charged, knocked the offender off his perch, and chased him round the aviary with scolding and furious snapping, then returned to feed and make much of baby. He was also very thoughtful for his wife, and visited her frequently while she sat on the nest, though he never fed her.

Both birds are very tame and have no objection to being watched. Their diet consists of bread and milk, ripe banana and strawberries, cucumber, ants' eggs, and wasp grubs in the comb (they kill wasps quite as easily as they do flies). They also visit the seed pans and make their selection. Sweet cake either soaked or dry is appreciated and so is curd. They are out in all weathers but generally sleep in the shelter. I do not think it would be wise, in a small place like mine, to keep the young ones after they have grown up, there would probably be friction between them and their parents. I found no difficulty in disposing of them, and I am sure the old birds are happier by themselves.

Besides attending to their own broods the Pekins took a neighbourly interest in a nestful of young Bullfinches on the opposite side of the aviary, and would even feed them when they could get at them, which was not always appreciated by the Bullfinch parents, who were fully competent to manage their own affairs.

Portable and other Out-door Bird Cages.

By Miss C. W. Thorburn.

I attended my first meeting of the F.B.C. at the Zoo, in July, 1911, when our small party was conducted through the various Foreign Bird Aviaries by our Editor, Mr. Wesley T. Page. who kindly kept up a running commentary on the birds themselves in a most patient and interesting manner.

In the course of conversation, Mr. Page, seeing some photographs I had with me of my own birds and cages, asked me for the use of them for publication in *B.N.*, with a few notes.

I must confess at the outset I have only had till the last month, two foreign birds—a pair of Grey Waxbills, which are in the best of health after three years' confinement. This year (1911.) the hen made a nest and laid three eggs, but, owing to the interference of Siskins, did not incubate properly. Since the Zoo meeting I have purchased a pair of Avadavats, which unfortunately (November!) are now showing signs of nesting, and a Grey Singingfinch which has since died. As I keep my birds strictly as a hobby, neither for profit, nor to exhibit, I have a very mixed selection of Canaries, British Birds and Mules. Though having started in a very mild form in breeding mules and hybrids, I hope some day to produce a *rara avis.*

The accompanying photographs give an idea of my cages, and are self explanatory; the cages are nine in number and varying in size from one, 18 feet by 8 feet by 8 feet high, with a drop to 6 feet—this is built round a pear tree against a wall—to one 3 feet by 3 feet. The small ones make very good breeding cages; also a long one, with three divisions, each 3 x 1½ feet, with sliding partitions, by the withdrawal of which it becomes a good flight cage for winter use.

As already stated I have mostly kept Canaries and indigenous species, and my greatest wish is to breed Goldfinches and Siskins; but so far have not succeeded, though in 1908 four Siskins were hatched out, but unfortunately died at a fortnight old, and in 1909 eight Goldfinches, but alas, they only lived a week—probably a record of the several year's doings in my out-door cages may be of passing interest.

1906—17 Canaries reared.

1907—22 Canaries reared.

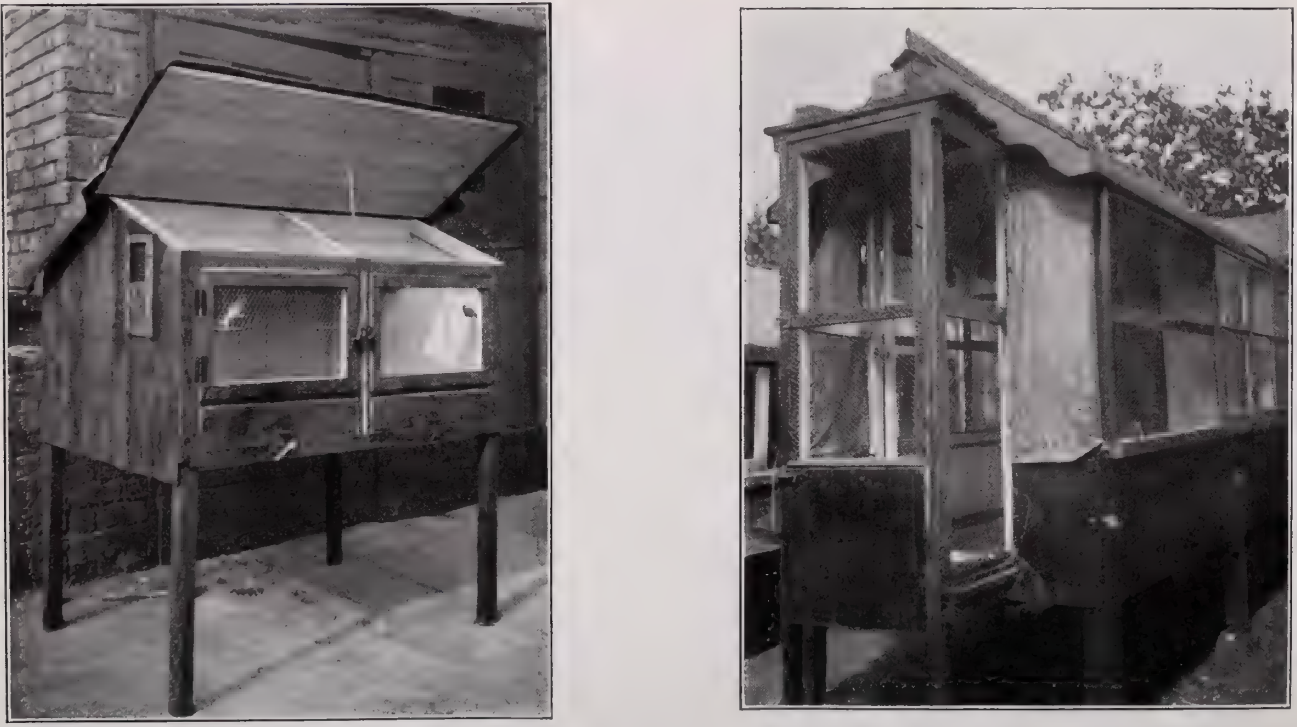
1908—13 Canaries, 1 Greenfinch mule, 9 Linnet mules, and 2 Siskin mules all fully reared. 4 Siskins hatched out but not reared.

1909—17 Canaries, 9 Siskin mules all reared; 8 Goldfinches hatched out but not reared.

1910—18 Canaries and 1 Siskin mule reared.

1911—14 Canaries, 1 Greenfinch mule, and 9 Siskin mules all fully reared.

I shall hope to be able to give a better record at the end of 1912.



Photos by Miss Thorburn

Miss Thorburn's Out-door Cages.

Photos by Miss Thorburn.

Miss Thorburn's Out-door Cages.

I have drawn many conclusions with regard to the treatment of caged birds during my five years' experience, some of which are :

That they will thrive well in the open air, but can be easily overfed.

That Canaries become quite hardened to the cold with careful treatment and judicious feeding.

That rich colour can be obtained with plenty of bathing and wild seeds.

That there is no cruelty in the caging of birds if their wants are attended to.

One of my Siskins escaped twice but did not remain away long. A Greenfinch which I caught half dead with cold and starvation completely recovered after a month's confinement, I then released him (six months ago), but as he would not leave the garden I have caught him again and he is quite happy.

[The aviaries figured and briefly described above are certainly very practical, excellently arranged, and would doubtless give excellent results for many species of foreign birds, especially in cases where the *natural* garden aviary is not possible. Every aviary or cage should be constructed with a definite aim.—Ed.]

Miss C. W. Thorburn's Cages and Aviaries.

By a Visitor (*Not a Member of F.B.C.*)

It is well if one can profit by another's experience. I can say with sincerity this is the case with me. When I again take up the production of British bird hybrids I shall certainly adopt the hutch-like aviaries of the photographs which Miss Thorburn is sending for reproduction in *Bird Notes.*

These aviaries were constructed by a handy gardener in Miss Thorburn's employ, under the direct instructions of herself. I may add that previous to this Miss Thorburn had no experience in bird keeping or advice from anyone when designing these useful little cages. Larger aviaries have followed (the latest with a pear tree enclosed) but these have not improved her results in the reproduction of British Birds or hybrids. The larger aviaries are good flights for winter use or for a mixed non-breeding collection, and the smaller aviaries are very useful for breeding British birds or hybrids and no doubt would be as useful for small foreigners. The double wire fronts protect the birds from their natural enemies, the cats, etc., the glass slides keep out the cold at night, the hinged roof allows the opening of the front half (under which is wire) to let in additional sunlight, the partitions are removable so that a section can be shut off when cleaning, etc. These aviaries stand high above the ground, and therefore are dry and can be kept free from mice. The cosiness suggests a thick hedgerow, and the depth from front to back gives a good shelter for timid birds. The success of these aviaries has been demonstrated by the fact that Miss Thorburn has bred Goldfinches, Siskins, and hybrids from both the cock and hen Siskin. This year a hen Siskin bred and reared nine youngsters from nine eggs, and there is no doubt that many more hybrids would have resulted from Miss Thorburn's season's work if more of these hutch-like aviaries had been used instead of the larger aviaries, three of which adorn her garden.

For the present I am using a spare room for my birds, but my next move will be in the direction of the cosy, convenient hutch-like aviaries of Miss Thorburn's design. I have been interested in ornithology and aviculture all my life, and have visited many bird rooms and aviaries, including those at Hoddam Castle. I have certainly seen many structures more elaborate in design and attractive in appearance than the ones mentioned in these few remarks, but I have failed to extract information giving better results in proportion. The larger aviaries are grand for a mixed collection of birds, but the smaller ones herein described are certainly the most useful for breeding purposes. How often one hears the remark and have read it also in *Bird Notes* that two or more birds have chosen the same nesting site, and that good results might have accrued if inquisitive neighbours had not interfered, etc., etc.

The Black-headed Sibia.

(*Sibia capistrata*).

By H. Goodchild.

Our best thanks are due to Mr. Goodchild for kindly compiling the following interesting notes (see plate in last issue).—Ed.

From E. W. Oates's edition of Hume's "Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds."

"The Black-headed Sibia lays throughout the Himalayas from Afghanistan to Bhootan, at elevations from 5,000 to 7,000 feet.

"They build on the outskirts of forests, constructing their nests towards the ends of branches; at heights from 10 to 50 feet from the ground."

"Capt. Hutton remarks 'At Musoorie this bird remains at an elevation of 7,000 feet throughout the year, but I never saw it under 6,500 feet. Its loud ringing note of titteree-titteree tweëyo, quickly repeated, may constantly be heard on wooded banks during summer.'"

"Capt. Cock says 'It builds near the tops of the highest pines, and unless seen building its nest with the glasses, it is impossible to find the nest with the unaided eye.

"The nest is placed on the outer extremity of an upper bough of a pine tree; is constructed of moss lined with stalks of the maiden-hair fern." Jerdon, Vol. II., p. 54.

"The Black-headed Sibia is found throughout the whole Himalayas, from Simla to Bhootan, and is one of the most abundant birds about Darjeeling. It is found from 4,000 feet to 8,000 feet, but is most common about 7,000. It frequents the highest trees, climbing up the larger branches, and clinging round and below the smaller branches, almost like a Woodpecker or Nuthatch.

"It is often seen alone or in pairs, but occasionally in small parties; and is constantly uttering its twittering call, which Hutton syllabizes titteree, titteree, twego, often answered by one at some little distance. It is very fond of concealing itself in the thick masses of *Epiphytic* plants found on all lofty trees in Sikhim, and its favourite food is the fruit of the *Epiphytic Andromeda*, so abundant about Darjeeling; it occasionally, however, picks insects from moss, or crevices of the bark."

[In captivity I have found this species quite hardy all the year round, agreeing well with a mixed series of Thrushes, Cardinals, Ouzels and Parrakeets;—to meet the requirements of all, ripe fruit, milk sop, live insects, insectile mixture and seed were supplied, and excepting the latter the Sibias ate heartily of all. They are most interesting as aviary birds, as well as being exceedingly handsome, and for a roomy aviary containing largish species, they are pre-eminent, and attract attention from every visitor. Mrs. Warren Vernon in 1908 all but succeeded in rearing the species, the young living till they were nearly fledged. (See also B.N., Vol. VIII., Vol. I. and II. N.S.) Ed.]

The Himalayan Whistling Thrush.

Myiophonus temminckii (Vigors).

By H. GOODCHILD.

We are indebted to Mr. Goodchild for the following compilation (see plate in last issue).

From E. W. Oates's edition of Hume's "Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds," Vol. I., p. 120.

"The Himalayan Whistling Thrush breeds throughout the Himalayas from Assam to Afghanistan, in shady ravines and wooded glens, as a rule, from an elevation of 2,000 to 5,000 feet, but, at times, especially far into the interior of the hills, up to even 10,000 feet.

"It lays during the last week of April, May and June. The number of eggs varies from three to five.

The nest is almost invariably placed in the closest proximity to some mountain-stream, on the rocks and boulders of which the male so loves to warble; sometimes on a mossy bank; sometimes in some rocky crevice hidden amongst drooping maiden-hair; sometimes on some stream-encircled slab, exposed to view from all sides, and not unfrequently curtained in by babbling waters of some little waterfall behind which it has been constructed. The nest is always admirably adapted to surrounding conditions. Safety is always sought either in inaccessibility or concealment. Built on a rock in the midst of a roaring torrent, not the smallest attempt at concealment is made; the nest lies open to the gaze of every living thing, and the materials are not even so chosen as to harmonise with the colour of the site. But if an easily accessible sloping mossy bank, ever bejewelled with the spray of some little cascade, be the spot selected, the nest is so worked into and coated with moss as to be absolutely invisible if looked at from below, and the place usually so chosen that it cannot well be looked at, at all closely from above". Mr. R. Thomson writes "In Kumaon they breed from May to July, along all the hill-streams, from 1,500 up to about 4,500. In the cold season they decend quite to the plains—I mean the Sub-Himalayan plains. The nest is generally more or less circular, 5 or 6 inches in diameter, composed of moss and mud clinging to the roots of small aquatic plants or of the moss, and lined with fine roots and sometimes hair. A deep well-watered glen is usually chosen, and the nest is placed in some cleft or between the ledges of some rock, often immediately overhanging some deep gloomy pool."

Captain Hutton states "the bird is common, except during the breeding season, at all elevations up to the snows, and in the winter it extends its range down into the Doon. In the breeding season it is found chiefly in the glens, in the retired depths of which it constructs its nest; it never, like the Thrushes and *Geocichlae*, builds in trees or bushes, but selects some high lowering, and almost inaccessible rock, forming the side of a deep glen, on the projecting ledges of which, or in the holes from which small boulders have fallen, it constructs its nest, and where, unless when assailed by man, it rears its young in safety, secure alike from the howling blast and the attack of wild animals. It is known to the natives by the name of "Kallet," and to the Europeans as the "Hill Blackbird." The situation in which the nest is placed is quite unlike that of any other of our Hill Thrushes with which I am acquainted. The bird itself is as often found in open rocky, spots on the skirts of the forest as among the woods, loving to jump upon some stone or rocky pinnacle, from which it sends forth a sort of choking chattering song, if such it can be called, or, with an up-jerk of the tail, hops away with a loud musical whistle, very much after the manner of the Blackbird (*M. vulgaris*)."

(End of quotations from Oates's Hume.)

From Oates's Fauna of British India," Vol. I. p. 178.

"This species frequents the hill-streams and torrents, perching on rocks and snags and feeding largely on snails, the shells of which are frequently found accumulated on the ground where the bird has been in the habit of breaking them up. It has a loud and pretty whistling note. It breeds from April to June, constructing a massive cup-shaped nest of roots and moss in a crevice of a rock or in the root of some upturned tree in the river-bed near or under a waterfall, and laying from three to five eggs, which are pale grey or green, speckled with pink and brown."

Jerdon "The Birds of India," Vol. I., p. 500.

"The Yellow-billed Whistling Thrush, . , . . . is common at Darjeeling and is found from the lowest valleys to at least 8,000 feet of elevation ; Hutton states that it extends up to the snows at Simla. Like the last species, it is fond of frequenting the beds of streams, and may generally be seen on a rock in the midst of some roaring torrent, where it feeds on the larvae of *Libellulae*, and some other water-insects, and may often be seen on an adjacent rock to its near ally, the Water-dipper (*Hydrobata asiatica*). . . . . . Vigne says that 'its musical whistle is the sweetest note heard in the hills.' It is not at all like the whistling of a man, as that of its Malabar congener, [*M. horsefieldi*, Vigors], but is a pretty, slow measured, song.

[In a roomy aviary, housed with species as robust and vigorous as itself, this is a lovely species. Its dazzling beauty, song and utter fearlessness, make it a favourite with all acquainted with its personality. As regards diet, it should have access to insectile mixture, ripe fruit and an ample supply of live food.

The Breeding of the Silver-eared Mesia.

(*Mesia argentauris*).

BY O. MILLSUM.

Continued from page 45.

Natural instincts for the preservation of their family, were distinctly in evidence. The male bird, for instance, after "preparing" the food would fly to the extreme opposite direction of the nest, oftentimes making circuitous routes round the aviary, through the inner enclosure to finally alight on a shrub or bush some distance from the nest, and creeping along and amongst the many branches would eventually reach "home," deposit the food, and quickly rise with a smart note of triumph to go on a further search for prey. On May 21st, when five days old, the young were entirely without down, but had the pen feathers on the wings just visible. The following day, sad to relate, one of the youngsters was found dead in the nest. May 26th, the tenth day, finds the young fully fledged on wings, and breast, the feathers being of a dark slaty-grey. On May 29th, the remaining two left the nest. A glorious event, to be marred by a catastrophe, better explained by the following extract from my diary recording this fact: "Just my luck. Yesterday, both young Mesias left the nest, but, with what, appears to be a fatality attaching to aviculture. During the night there occurred a most severe thunderstorm and I found one young Mesia dead, wedged between the forks of the Laurel bush, as though it had fallen through fright." The body of this poor little chap I posted to our esteemed Editor, and this editorial appears in "*Bird Notes*," Vol. II., N.S., No. 6, June, 1911.

> . . . . . "Crown black, forehead, chin, throat, neck, breast and sides of body, grey; middle of abdomen and vent, white; ear-coverts, hoary white; back and wings, dark grey suffused with olive green; margins of outer webs of quills pale olive green, tail feathers olive green above, rusty brown beneath; bill, upper mandible, blackish horn colour, lower, greenish horn colour; legs and feet pinkish flesh colour."

Just one wee mite left. The visions so eagerly indulged in of being the first to rear this species in captivity became very dim. I was helpless to render aid, and extremely hopeless, so could simply await results. The young bird was a bonny little fellow, healthy, in fine condition, and fully plumaged. The parent birds were very attentive, persistently following its every movement, and for a time all appeared to be going well. It was most amusing to watch the antics of the parent birds, should I approach too near their baby, and especially if I were daring enough to touch it. There was terrible excitement, they fly mostly around me, uttering fearful screeches, frantically dashing very close to my face, until I began to wonder if they meant serious business. This state prevails until I leave their offspring severely alone. There is, however, excitement of a very different order when I enter with the mealworm tin. Then they seemed pleased to see me —the male would utter its loud sweet call-note, and immediately the worms are placed within their reach both fly to the tin and extracting a worm, prepare it as aforementioned, then strut proudly to where the young bird is and place it gently, but surely into its open beak. Soon, however, fresh attractions interest them, and on June 3rd they begin to repair the old nest. On June 6th, the first egg of their third clutch was laid, and on June 9th, the clutch (four eggs) was complete, and incubation was commenced. Their first off-spring was now apparently left to fend for itself, for June 5th was the first day I noticed it pick for itself. Then I fondly imagined all was well, and that the greatest difficulties were over, and, ever impetuous, looked forward to soon having quite a team of young Mesias. Hopes were high, but alas! the outlook did not remain bright for long. Nothing of any particular interest occurred until the 18th June, when to my deep regret I found the young Mesia dead with what is termed " down behind," a most disheartening discovery. Dead! after having appeared always so hearty, so fit, and so well. I am inclined to think its sudden decease was due to its weakness for mealworms, for experiences teaches me a too liberal diet of these dainty (?) morsels for small insectivorous birds often causes constipation, and in so young a bird " down behind," is only another stage.

On June 21st, I glanced to see how the other nest was faring, and found one young bird hatched and another leaving the shell. Disastrous results followed this nest—the old birds neglected the young and three were dead in the nest on June 28th—the remaining one dying on the 30th. Their actions by this time had wearied me—true they had carried out their duties sufficiently well to honour us with being the first to breed in captivity a young Mesia capable of catering for itself, but I wanted more—young Mesias to live and mature was my desire, a desire at present unrealised. I did not follow with any degree of interest another nest of four eggs in July. In this instance, however, the old nest was not utilised. They built a new one, of quite a different order in the enclosure. This nest was woven to, and *suspended* from the slender sub branches of a Scotch fir tree, but was not of very good workmanship. Probably other occupants of the aviary, seeing a nest so exposed, assisted in weakening the foundations, but at any rate some few days before the eggs were due to hatch the nest gave way and the eggs lay crushed upon the floor.

Again in August another nest was made, but this time the Mesias themselves seemed to have become tired of this unproductiveness of their housekeeping, for the completed nest remained empty until other birds in their wanton mischief, or in place of something better to do thought fit to destroy it.

Thus in five full months these interesting, active, beautiful, ever charming birds went to nest five times, built three nests, laid 15 eggs, hatched seven young, but sad to relate none of their offspring remain as a monument to perpetuate the season's work. Truly a tale of "Love's labour lost."

Tanagers in Cages

By Lady Kathleen Pilkington.

With great diffidence I put this little article before the experienced readers of *Bird Notes*, most of whom are probably more qualified to write on this subject! But the assurance of our good Editor that it will be of some interest, and the hope on my own part, that it may be of some use to others even less experienced, has encouraged me to give a brief account of my Tanagers, all of whom, as the title denotes, are kept in cages in one of the living-rooms.

My collection at present consists of the following:

Blue and Black Tanager
Pretre's Tanager
Gold and Green Tanager
Festive Tanager
Blue Tanager
Black-backed Tanager
All Green (Necklace) Tanager
Tricolour Tanager
Superb Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Nonpareil Bunting
Indigo Bunting
Black-headed Sugarbird
Blue Sugarbird (pair)
Black-throated Troupial
Gold-crowned Troupial
Gold-fronted Fruitsucker
Hardwick's (Blue-winged) Fruitsucker
Mexican Green Jay
Amethyst-rumped Sunbird (2)
Purple Sunbird
Red-shouldered Blackbird (American)
Shama

All these, with the exception of the American Blackbird, who does not require warmth, and the Mexican Green Jay, inhabit the same room, which has only one outside wall, two large windows, and a fireplace capable of throwing out a good heat. The Sunbirds, and the more delicate Tanagers are kept fairly near this fire, which is however, completely screened. So that no direct heat or scorch can affect them. They are well in the centre of the room, the more robust Tanagers, Troupials, and Buntings being on the far side from the fire. As the room opens on one side into a well heated hall, and on the other side into the drawing-room, by leaving one of the doors open a change of warm air can always be effected, and the room being very lofty, it does not get stuffy. In consideration of the Sunbirds the temperature is kept about 60 degrees, never, if possible, being allowed below 58 deg. or above 62 deg., though during the recent sharp snap it did fall, despite every effort, to 56 deg. However, no harm resulted, and I feel lucky indeed to have come through so well. I ought to mention that we stand on a hill 300 feet above sea level in a very bleak part of Yorkshire. Twenty-seven degrees of frost were recently registered, and during autumn and winter, an even greater enemy to foreign birds—fog, is often much in evidence. However, by a liberal use of electric light early, late, and in the daytime, when necessary, I manage to prevent this affecting them to any great extent.

But to return to the Tanagers themselves. Needless to say the most prized of the collection is the very rare Blue and Black Tanager (*T. cyanomclaena*), whom many fanciers may have seen. As this specimen has been exhibited three times, first at the L.C.B.A. Show in 1910, when the property of Mr. Maxwell, taking 1st prize, where the writer purchased him. Secondly, at the L.C.B.A. Show, Nov., 1911, and thirdly at Bradford, December, 1911, where, besides being 1st in his class, he secured the F.B.C. medal for best foreign bird in the show. He is very beautiful, of good carriage, and is very lively and sprightly. In January *B.N.*, was a beautiful portrait of my bird from the skilful hand of Mr. Goodchild, which shows his marvellous colouring so well that no description is needed. He is a great bather, and keeps his beautiful garment in excellent trim. He occupies a cage 24 inches by

26, and is fed on a diet of three parts sponge-cake, and one part Abrahams' Food, with bananas and grapes, *ad. lib.*, and a slice of orange and apple on alternate days, he also gets two mealworms per diem. He lives next the Sunbirds in the warmest part of the room near the fire. He has a most pleasant little song. His great idea of pleasure is to escape from his cage and play about on the other birds' cages, chirping joyously the while, but, after a short outing, he returns to his own abode if it is placed in a prominent position.

All Green Chloro-Tanager (*C. viridis*). This is another much-prized bird, and a really glittering little gem, who flashes about his cage like a little sparkle of green and gold. Fruit is his chief diet, and he eats but little of the insectile mixture, and will not touch a mealworm. He carried off third prize at the 1911 L.C.B.A. Show. He is a more friendly little bird than the Blue and Black Tanager, and always greets one with a pleased chirp rather like a Canary.

The Gold and Green Tanager (*C. flava*), is brilliant in plumage, but quiet in disposition, with no special characteristics beyond a firm determination to eat no mealworms unless they are put in his food tin. Pretre's Tanager (*Spindalis pretrei*), I also brought at the L.C.B.A. Show, where he was second to the Gold and Green. He is very handsome, with his striped plumage (*see plate in February* "*B.N.*") living almost entirely on fruit, takes practically no soft food, and when I first got him, he would take no mealworms either, but, of late, he has acquired a taste for them, and now he eats his two a day with the best of them. I think he is the better for them, as he is now more lively, with much sleeker plumage.

The Festive Tanager is another favourite, bright in colour, and lively in nature. He is a fine all-round feeder, and would indulge in far more than his ration of two mealworms a day, if allowed. He is kept in almost the warmest position, and does not do nearly as well moved to a cooler part of the room. In a big box-cage, quite close to the fire but screened from the glow of it, lives a Blue Tanager,* he is a delicate bird and during his first winter I was horrified on returning after a short absence, to find him wheezing, and breathing so loud I could hear him all over the room. Promptly moving him to a sheltered spot close to the fire and doses of Friar's Balsam in his drinking water every other day eventually cured him, but he requires keeping very warm, and never looks well if put in the cooler part of the room. He is very tame, taking mealworms from one's hand, and coming close to the bars to enquire for his food, if there is any delay.

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* I have had a pair of this species out of doors all the year round since 1905, and they are still living.—Ed,

A very attractive Tanager, and a hardier one in my experience is the Black-backed Tanager (*C. melanonata*), this I purchased at the Crystal Palace Show, 1911, when he took 3rd prize. and he was also 4th at Bradford last December. He is a cheerful lively bird, whose great amusement is to tip his food tin over, and will only eat mealworms, when they are placed in his food tin, very tame, and takes the deepest interest in everything round him.

My Tri-coloured Tanager (*C. tricolor*), is quite a pet, very affectionate, but frightened of other birds. A Superb Tanager (*C. fastuosa*), and a Scarlet Tanager (*R. braziliensis*) The latter to my mind is very uninteresting, very wild, savage, and attacks the other birds through the cage bars, and with no particular charm beyond his wonderful côlouring; he hardly eats anything except fruit, but is passionately fond of mealworms, and, I generally allow him four a day, on which he does well. This concludes my list of Tanagers.

They are all kept in cages 24 by 16 inches, and are all fed on the insectile mixture already mentioned, with fruit *ad. lib.*, bananas, and grapes daily, with orange or apple on alternate days. All who will condescend to eat mealworms have two daily, except the Blue and the Scarlet, who have four. They have a daily bath. Once a fortnight I put a pinch of magnesia in their water, and I am sure with birds in cages who " do themselves " well this is most necessary. My one cure for colds is Friar's Balsam, an invaluable remedy. In addition to the Blue Tanager it cured the Black-backed Tanager of a very bad cough. I put three or four drops in the drinking water every other day, or every day if they are badly affected, varying the dose according to the size of the bird, and particularly with the larger Tanagers, it works wonders.

My only fad about Tanagers, and, one which I think many people heartily disagree with, is never giving them sop of any kind. When birds arrive, having been accustomed to it, I gradually discontinue it, and at the end of a week or two cease it altogether. To my mind plenty of fruit and one or two mealworms a day, together with the insectile mixture, do them exceedingly well, and judging from the kind comments on their condition, which have been made lately, when they were shown, I feel all the more justified in abolishing sop from their diet. The danger to be guarded against with Tanagers in cages is their getting too fat, and therefore the greatest care must be exercised, not to give them too heating or fattening food or too many mealworms.

Nesting Results, 1911.

By Wm. Shore Bailey.

The breeding operations of my birds in their outdoor aviaries have been productive of very small results, but, as promised I am sending a short account of same.

Aviary No. 1 (40 feet x 15 feet x 8 feet) contained Alexandrine, Yellow Flanked, and Pennant Parrakeets, Black-faced Lovebirds, Californian and Argoondah Quails. From over fifty eggs the Californian Quail fully reared seven young ones. The B.F. Lovebirds made two unsuccessful attempts to reproduce their kind—all the eggs were infertile.

Aviary No. 2 (40 feet x 15 feet x 8 feet): Here were housed two pairs of Budgerigars which, fully reared 12 young birds between them; two Mealy Rosellas, believed to be two hens made no attempt to nest; and a pair of Montezuma Quail. Unfortunately the hen died, and I could not replace her in time, but I hope to have better luck in 1912.

Aviary No. 3 (40 feet x 15 feet x 8 feet): Rosella Parrakeets (supposed two pairs), Gouldian Finches, Silverbills (two varieties), Spice Birds, a cock Peaceful Dove, and sundry Mannikins occupied this aviary. The only results were from Gouldian Finches, who successfully reared four young ones. The African Silverbills also nested, but all their eggs were infertile.

Aviary No. 4 (30 feet x 15 feet x 15 feet): Here results were a little better, but below expectations. The aviary contained: Cockateels (two pairs); Ring-necked, Moustache, and Pennant Parrakeets; Peaceful, Aurita, Zebra, and and White-winged Doves; Java Sparrows; Saffron and Zebra Finches, and Californian Quails. The Quail successfully reared eleven young (over fifty eggs were laid). The Cockateels nested several times, but, only raised to maturity five young ones. The Zebra Finches fully reared four young ones, none of the others attempted to nest.

Aviary No. 5 (40 feet x 30 feet x 8 feet): Here I had quite a numerous series: Crested Doves; White-cheeked Crested, and Argoondah Quails; Green Cardinals; Pintail and Paradise Whydahs; Napoleon, Grenadier, Orange and Red-billed Weavers; Orange-cheeked, Golden-breasted, and St. Helena Waxbills; Cordon Bleus; Military, Yellow-winged, Orange-shouldered, and Brown-headed Troupials, Silky Cowbirds, and a Pagoda Starling.

As this aviary has plenty of natural cover I had great hopes of success with some of the birds, but, though attempts were fairly numerous, results turned out to be nil.

The White-cheeked Crested Quail laid fourteen eggs in a thick clump of grass, and after incubating very steadily for thirty days brought off twelve chicks, none of which lived over a week, the old birds proving very bad parents.

The Argoondah Quail delayed operations till November, when seven eggs were laid, but these were all punctured, probably the cock was the culprit.

The Crested Doves proved to be two cocks!

The Orange-shouldered Troupials were, I think, two hens. They built two nests, the first in a Black Spruce, and the other in a Box bush, both nests being very similar to a Blackbird's. They laid five eggs, pinky-white, closely speckled with fine red spots in the second nest, but made no attempt to incubate. A week later, five more eggs were deposited in the first nest, these were creamy white, with large brown patches at the larger end, and much elongated in shape. Both incubated these eggs very carefully but, all were infertile, and were removed. A third clutch was laid in the same nest, similar in colour to the first clutch, but all proved infertile, and the Orange-shoulders were turned out of the nest and their eggs broken by the Silky Cowbirds. Yet again they nested, this time in a wooden box, but the Cowbirds again dispossessed them, and smashed the eggs.

Of the other birds the Green Cardinals nested five times, eggs all infertile. Golden-breasted Waxbills, and the Cordon Bleus nested twice, with no results in either case.

The Weavers made dozens of nests but, as far as I know none of them got as far as eggs.

As the result of the nesting season, 1911, my aviaries have certainly not become overcrowded but, I hope for better luck during the season 1912.

Reviews and Notices of New Books,

THE NATURE BOOK, with Pen and Camera in the Open Air. By various writers, Profusely Illustrated with Photography and numerous coloured plates. In 36 fortnightly parts 7d. each net. London : Cassell and Co.

Part I. Is indeed a beautiful issue, with a fascinatiug coloured plate of a Kentish Garden, and photographic and other illustrations of almost every phase of nature. The completed work will include the following sections;—

How to know the Birds—By the Rev. M. C. H. Bird, M.A., M.B.O.U.
How to know the Animals of the Field and Wood—By Douglas English, B.A., F.R.P.S.
How to know the Insects—By John J. Ward.
The Life of the Sea-Shore—By F. Martin Duncan, F.R P.S.
How to know the Wild Flowers By the Rev. H. P. Fitzgerald, F.L.S.
How to know the Trees—By Henry Irving.
How to know the clouds—By W. J. S. Locker, F.R.A.S.
Fresh-water Fish and their haunts—By Walter M. Gallichan.
How to Understand and Appreciate the Scenery of Mountain, Rock, River, Lake, aud Stream.—By J. Lomas, A.R.C.S., F.G.S.
Chapters in Plant Life—By S. L. Bastin.
The Joys of the Garden—By H. H. Thomas, Editor of 'The Gardener.'

The sections referring to Wild Animals, Clouds, Wild Flowers, Birds and Trees, are opened up in this part, and sumptuously illustrated. Among the bird pictures is a beautiful photo-gravure of the Sedge-Warbler feeding young Cuckoo, from a photo by Cherry Kearton. We cannot too highly praise this beautiful work. It should be on every Nature-lover's bookshelf.

FROM FIELD TO DAIRY.—By William Shepperson, F.C.S. London : Simpkin, Marshall and Co, Ltd. 2s. net.

The whole subject is comprehensively dealt with, yet the booklet is a marvel of condensed information – containing valuable hints on the management of land and cattle, the production of milk, cream, butter, cheese, in fact all appertaining to the Dairy. Should be in the library of all who keep cattle for dairy produce.

Scarcely perhaps the book to review in an Avicultural Journal, yet the notice is given, as it will doubtless be of interest to some of our readers

Editorial.

THE LATE MR. HAYWARD MATHIAS: With great regret in our last issue we announced the sudden death of Mr. Hayward Mathias, an able and energetic member of the Council. He rejoined the F.B.C., in October 1908, was elected to the Council in Jan 1910, and till the time of his sudden death on February 10th, he remained one of its most energetic members—he lost no opportunity of making the F.B.C. known to all interested in birds, and certainly did as much as any single member to increase onr numbers. As a member of the Magazine Commitee he will be much missed, as in spite of failing health he was never behind time nor "found wanting" in any of the duties of his office. He was an ardent aviculturist and successful above the average in breeding Australian Finches, etc., also ever ready with his pen to record his experiences for the benefit of his fellow members. He was a genial companion and correspondent, and highly esteemed by all his colleagues who had met or corresponded with him. The writer remembers several very pleasant and interesting visits paid to his Stubbington home, and misses a *friend* and colleague. We tender our deep sympathy to Miss. Mathias in her painful and sudden bereavement.

SPOTTED-WING (*Psaroglossa spiloptera*): Blandford in "*Fauna of Brit. India, Birds, Vol. I. p. 248*" exprssses the opinion that this species was wrongly classed as a starling, was not such, and that—

> "Neither its structure, its habits nor the colour of its eggs show any "affinities to the *Sturnidæ*."

Major H. Fulton records some most interesting field notes in the Journal of the Bombay National History Society, Vol. XX., No. 3, which he claims tend to confirm the view that the Spotted-Wing *is a starling* in its habits and general appearance.

"In March, 1911 flights of birds which I took to be *Pastor roseus* "could be seen every evening. I did not take much notice of them as I had "quite made up my mind that the Rose-coloured Starling was passing "through on migration. Every evening some 400 to 500 birds could be "seen at dusk flying exactly like *P roseus.* They settled in the *tun* trees "in the next compound. Every morning at dawn parties of 10 to 15 "would pass overhead, flying west. I generally saw them therefore too "late at night or too early in the morning to be able to see what species "they were. But from their flight I was certain that they were *P. roseus.* "They disappeard for a time but returned in the beginning of June in-"creased numbers As I could not understand *P. roseus* being present at "that time I decided to secure some specimens. On obtaining the birds I "was surprised to find it was not what I expected. However, being certain "from its habits and appearance that it was a starling and that I could "easily identify it I was further surprised to find I could not place it in "the *Sturnidæ*. . . . . The birds remained till June 20th. During that "month there must have been between two and three thousand in the "flocks. They came in from the flights at dusk and collected in the trees. "They would become startled and suddenly a large flock of thousands of "birds would be flying at great speed. In a few minutes they would return "to settle and their movements and twittering were exactly like those of "the Rose Starling. On June 18th, I was surprised to see them hawking "white ants with the Drongos and Crows.

"Rital bristles are weak. The measurements of some 20 birds agree "with those of Blandford. Irides bright yellow, bill horny, yellowish at "gape. Legs, feet and claws horny, light horny in the young. *The young* "*bird (male)* resembles the male more than the female, but wants the "chestnut throat of the male. There were distinct shaft streaks on the "throat. (I got no young female)

"*Locality*—Dehra Dun, height 2,200 feet.

"On dissection I found their stomachs full of the berries of a species "of *Ficus (? religiosa)*, white ants and two or three hymenopterous insects.

"They would appear to breed in April as the young birds were "flighting in the beginning of June."

Three skins were sent to the Museum and identified as *P. spiloptera.*

Messrs. E. W. Harper, A. G. Butler and W. P. Pycroft all considered it to be a Bulbul, the two former from its demeanour in captivity and the latter after dissection, while I gather that the late Dr. Bowdler Sharp inclined to the opinion it was a starling—Oates considered it as one of the Babbling Thrushes. From Major Fulton's interesting experience it would appear that it has many of the habits common to the *Sturnidæ*, yet lacks others. Col. Bingham also considered that it was a Bulbul and that it agreed in almost all its actions with the Bulbuls when at liberty.

Mr. E. J. Brook has some living specimens of this species at the present time—it would be of much interest if he would observe the demeanour of this species carefully and record the same fully in *Bird Notes.*

Albino Hoopoe (*Upupa indica*): In the same Journal Mr. A T. Brooke, R.H.A., observed near the Ambala Race Course an albino Indian Hoopoe, in company with three other ordinary coloured Hoopoes. On the following day the albino was shot, and its skin is now in the Museum of the Bombay N.H.S. It is an exceptionally complete albino, with pink eyes and even its bill, tarsus, and feet are devoid of colour. Probably a first record of albinism among this common species.

Hybrid Bulbuls (*Molpastes leucogenys x M. intermedius*): In the same Journal, Vol. XXI, part I., page 256-7 appears the following interesting note which we quote *in extenso*:

" On June 2nd I found a bulbul's nest in a bush, and seeing the sitt-
" ing bird had red undertail coverts, I put it down as *M. intermedius.* But
" when she left the nest she was at once joined by a *M. leucogenys.* Next
" I assured myself that this was the pair and secured both birds, to find
" that the hen was not *M. intermedius.* On comparison with other speci-
" mens it is clear that the hen herself must be a hybrid – roughly described
" it is of the size and appearance of *leucogenys.* but the ear-coverts are light
" brown, and the undertail coverts red tinged with yellow. The eggs, 3 in
" number, were partly incubated and small, measuring 2.10 x 1.70, 2.25 x 1.75
" 2.10 x 1.65, cmm. respectively. The nest was made of coarse dry grass,
" etc., and lined with finer grass, being rather more substantial than that
" of *leucogenys.*—H. Whistler (Indian Police)."

" In Captain Whitehead's paper on the birds of Kobat, which were
" reprinted from the Ibis in the Journal Vol. XX. p. 182, there are some
" remarks on a series of hybrid bubuls, which are said to be crosses be-
" tween *M. intermedius* and *M. leucogenys.* Mr Whistler's bird, which he
" has kindly forwarded for examination seems to agree fairly closely with
" 689 ♀ of Captain Whitehead's series. From *M. intermedius* this hybrid
" differs in being rather lighter, the abdomen dirty white and the flanks
" grey. The ear coverts are a pale washed out brown, and the under-tail
" coverts are yellowish-orange shading into washed crimson at the tips.
" N. B. KINNEAR."

BLUE CHAFFINCH.—Writing from Teneriffe, Mr. H. D. Astley states that he has secured 2 pairs of the above, but I had better quote him *in extenso* :—ED.

> " I have secured (at a Chemist's shop), two pairs of the " rare Blue Chaffinches, which is only to be found in the pine " forests around the Peak (*Fringilla teydea*). They are a good " size, larger than the English Chaffinch and the males are a " pure smalt blue all over, with whitish bars across the wings, " which (bars) are not very conspicuous. These birds are in " danger of extinction, and as they are found in no other spot " in the world, and their habitat, at best, is very limited."

BRITISH BIRDS.

Bird Life Through the Camera.

BY H. WILLFORD.

(Continued from page 61.)

THE STONECHAT (*Pratincola rubicola Linnæus*), is one of the choicest gems of our British avifauna, and is to be found with us summer and winter alike. To observe him in his enjoyment of life is indeed a pleasure.

In this locality (Isle of Wight), they are fairly numerous, but from May onwards, go about in pairs until the end of the breeding season, and each have their own beat, on which they allow no trespass by others of the same species.

One April afernoon I was driving a friend home and chanced to pass a field thickly grown over with furze and heather. I observed a cock Stonechat flying from one flowering stem to the ground and then up again to another some few yards distance ; we stopped, and having a pair of field glasses with us, watched for a while in the hopes of seeing the hen, but as she did not put in an appearance, I drove on, putting off a thorough search for the nest till the morrow. The next day I spent some three hours almost concealed amid the heather and furze, to the accompainment of the soothing hum of bees, who were busy indeed among the yellow flowers ; whilst I watched the cock Stonechat through my glasses—every now and again, I would lose sight of him, till in the end he did not re-appear--I was about to give up disappointed when I be-

Photo by H. Willford.

Hen Stonechat on the look-out.

Photo by H. Willford.

Cock Stonechat carrying Grasshopper to young.

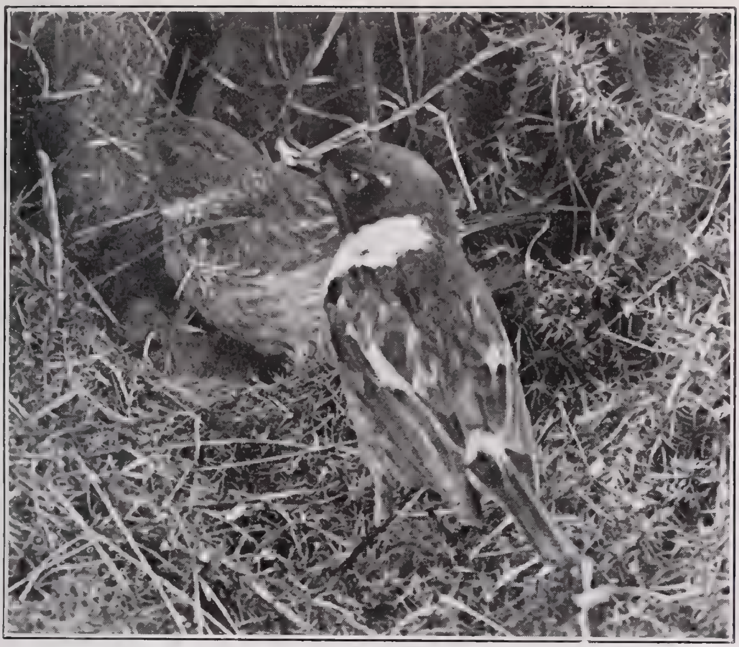


Photo by H. Willford.

Hen Brooding.—Cock arrives with food.

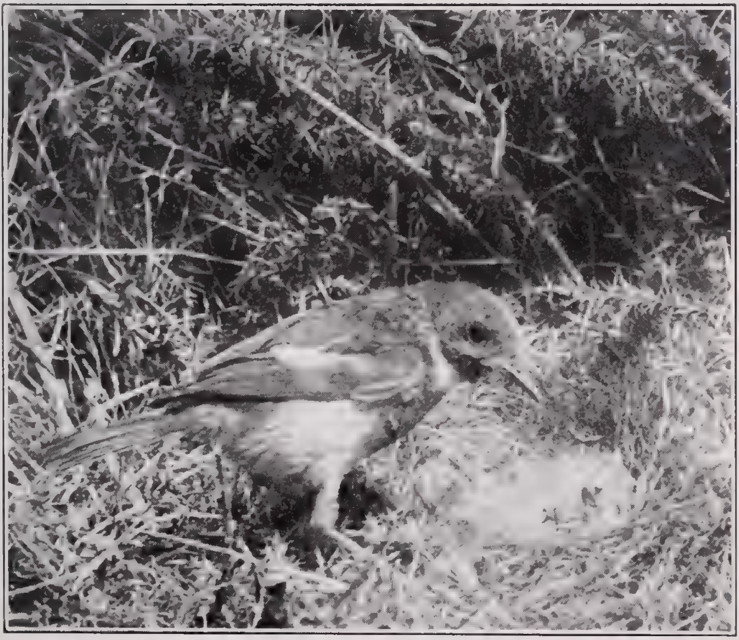


Photo by H. Willford.

Hen Stonechat Inspecting Nest.

thought myself of another field similarly overgrown, a short distance away and separated by the high road, from where I had been watching. Having walked over thereto, to my great delight I again sighted my quarry ; noticing that he kept flying down to one spot many times, I followed him, and a thorough search revealed the nest, it was most cunningly concealed, almost on the ground amid some short furze.

The nest contained four young chats, from three to four days old. At this stage I first saw the hen, she appeared very excited and had no doubt been brooding until she thought it dangerous to stop longer, and then had crept noiselessly away ; it was only when she knew that I had at last discovered her home that she came out into the open, perching on a furze branch, a short distance away, continually repeating her warning call note which, is very similar to that of the Nightingale when alarmed, and quite harsh.

Satisfied with my find I returned home and for the next two or three days, after pitching my hiding tent about four feet distance from the nest, paid it several visits and secured more than fifty photographic studies, four of which illustrate these notes.

They took no heed of the sudden growth of a large cluster of furze and braken in such close proximity to their home, the cock frequently pitching on my tent only a couple of inches from my head, before going down to the young with food.

The nest was constructed of dried grass, lined with cow's hair. On arriving with food, which consisted of green caterpillars, grasshoppers and other winged insects, the birds always made a point of pitching on the highest twig of furze, before descending to the nest, and the hen is shown in this position in one of the accompanying photo-reproductions.

The eggs, generally four to six in number, are of a very pale blue in colour.

The cock has a reddish-chestnut breast, deep velvety black head and back, with sides of neck and wing coverts white. The colouration of the hen is much duller than that of her mate, being brown, with the rich coloured areas of the male only faintly indicated. The young birds closely resembled the female and do not develop the full colouring of the adults for some months after they leave the nest, neither do they not attain their full brilliance till the second year.

The brood under observation flew in due course, and shortly after this event the old birds built a second nest and reared five more young. The hen alone incubated and brooded, and for the first few days the cock brought food which he passed to the hen to distribute to their offspring.

Most of the food seemed to be found amongst the tall bracken, and at times the cock would arrive with his beak simply crammed with caterpillars.

I found by cutting a rather long furze branch, and stripping all but a few spikes from it (see plates) and sticking it in the bround about a yard from the nest, the birds always used this to pitch on when arriving with food. Having focussed this stick and tilted the camera, so as to get a clear sky background, I had but to await the birds' arrival to make my exposures.

I was indeed sorry when the work was over, for I had just time to discover in what harmony they lived, and with what diligence they worked before they left their secluded home to wander like gipsies over the surrounding country.

Correspondence.

INFERTILE EGGS.

Sir,—I beg to tender my sincere thanks to yourself and others who so kindly favoured me during 1911 with such a nice collection of infertile birds' eggs, and may I venture to remind those unfortunate enough to obtain clear clutches during the coming season, that I shall be very pleased if they will again remember me. The date of laying and locality of nest adds considerable interest to my collection. and I should like to have them as soon as possible after the period of incubation so that I may the more readily get them blown perfectly clear. CLAUDE R. TYSON.

GROWING CANARY SEED.

Sir,—Allow me to recommend those of my fellow members who have not been in the habit of growing canary-seed to plant some this Spring. March is a good month for sowing, and the seed should be scattered broadcast and *thinly*. Then put a layer of light soil over it, pat it down with the flat side of a spade and cover with pea guards or a piece of wire-netting, which may be removed when the plants are a couple of inches high. It is best grown in the open in a sunny place, the soil being of the same quality as ordinary vegetables are grown in. It ripens in July and August, when a sharp look out is required to save it from the depredations of wild birds. I generally take some of mine when the green husks begin to turn yellow, and the rest as soon as it is fairly ripe. Cut the stalks near the ground, tie it up in bundles, and hang up, head downwards, on a dry wall out of the reach of mice. In this part of Essex (Maldon), when I was a young man, i.e. in the early seventies, a great many fields were given up by farmers to the growth of this cereal, but they tell me that nowadays it does not pay to grow it. All the birds I have ever kept—canaries, finches, parrots, parrakeets and small foreigners—are suprisingly keen on this seed in the husk, and I may safely say that those bird-lovers who grow it once will grow it always.

(REV.) G. H. RAYNOR.

Post Mortem Reports.

Zebra Finch (♀). Miss D. E. Pithie, Lymington, Hants. The cause of death was enteritis and bronchitis, due to a chill when not properly acclimatised. These birds do better on Canary seed and millet. Soft food is not good for them; at least, that is my experience. There was no evidence of the malady being infectious.

Red-crested Cardinal. (Mrs. Travis, Stourbridge). I am sorry to say this bird died of bird-fever, which is highly contagious by direct and indirect infection. The spleen and liver were crammed with small fig-seed like nodules, and both organs were, as they usually are in this disease, very much enlarged. The breast-bone was prominent, indicating that the bird had been suffering some little time. Bird-fever is due to an ovoid bacillus, closely related to that of avian cholera. It differs from avian plague which is due to an invisible organism in the blood and tissues. There are many diseases of a contagious nature which closely resemble one another in appearance during the life of the bird.

As to egg-binding, when it occurs, place the bird in a metal cage, which should be covered with a piece of flannel, so that the bird can get a little air, and places it in immediate contact with a hot water radiator, or even a boiler. If the bird is not too far gone before this is adopted, it generally relieves the creature if not of its egg of its suffering. I have left birds at night-time in contact with the radiator, quite expecting to find them dead next morning, but to my surprise, have found them all right, quite lively, on the perch. In a few instances, although the bird seemed relieved of its suffering, it has not passed its egg until two or three days later. The so-called egg-binding is due to a muscular spasm of the oviduct, not to the egg itself. The usual method of steaming acts not by the moisture but by the heat given off from the water. If once the hot air treatment was given a fair trial, steaming would become a thing of the past. Birds' normal temperatures being usually very high (106—110 degs.) is the reason they can stand a very high artificial temperature.

Experience of giving newly imported birds sand, after it has been denied them for some time negatives its too sudden use until the birds have got accustomed to their new conditions of life.

Hen Yellow Budgerigar. (E. Arthur Mallett, Barnsley). The cause of death was the so-called egg-binding, which is very common, especially in this species during the chilly, but not intensely cold weather. In future, in such cases feel for the egg in the hinder part of abdomen, and if present adopt the hot-air treatment recommended above. I have frequently perforated the egg, and let out its contents and the bird has soon after passed the shell and recovered her usual spirits. This operation, however, requires skill, and a knowledge of the birds' anatomy. Egg-binding, I think, is more prevalent when a north or north-easterly wind is prevailing and the birds kept in an artificially warm room exposed to the north. The so-called lack of lime in the food plays no part in its causation. Budgerigars confined in a very large open out-door aviary even having a southern aspect are liable to the so-called egg-binding, when the wind is in the north or north-east.

PARROT FINCH (♂) (Mrs. E. Travis, Stourbridge). Cause of death pneumonia. An aviary having an artificially warmed interior, and an open exterior is not very good. The temperatures of the two are so opposite.

RED-HEADED CARDINAL. (I. Clarke, Haywards Heath). (1): The post-mortem examination of the bird showed well pronounced lesions of bird-fever in the liver and spleen. (2): THE WHITE-HEADED NUN only had an enlargement of the spleen but no nodules. It is quite possible this bird died before the characteristic appearances had time to manifest themselves. (3): Another RED-CARDINAL. Lesions were identical to those observed in the first case.

It would be rather interesting to learn if the various Cardinals sent to me of late for post-mortem examination had been in contact with one another. Disinfect and isolate. The best way to detect this disease in the early stage is to have a post-mortem examination of the first birds that die. By doing this the disease would not have made very great inroads into the inmates of the aviary before the disease was discovered, and an early disinfection and isolation adopted. Always isolate newly purchased birds for two or three weeks, at least.

CACTUS CONURE. (Miss Drummond, Mains of Megginch, Errol). The bird was very thin and had lesions of pneumonia. It must have been ill several days.

GOLDEN-BREASTED WAXBILL (♂). (G. E. Haggis). Death was due to pneumonia.

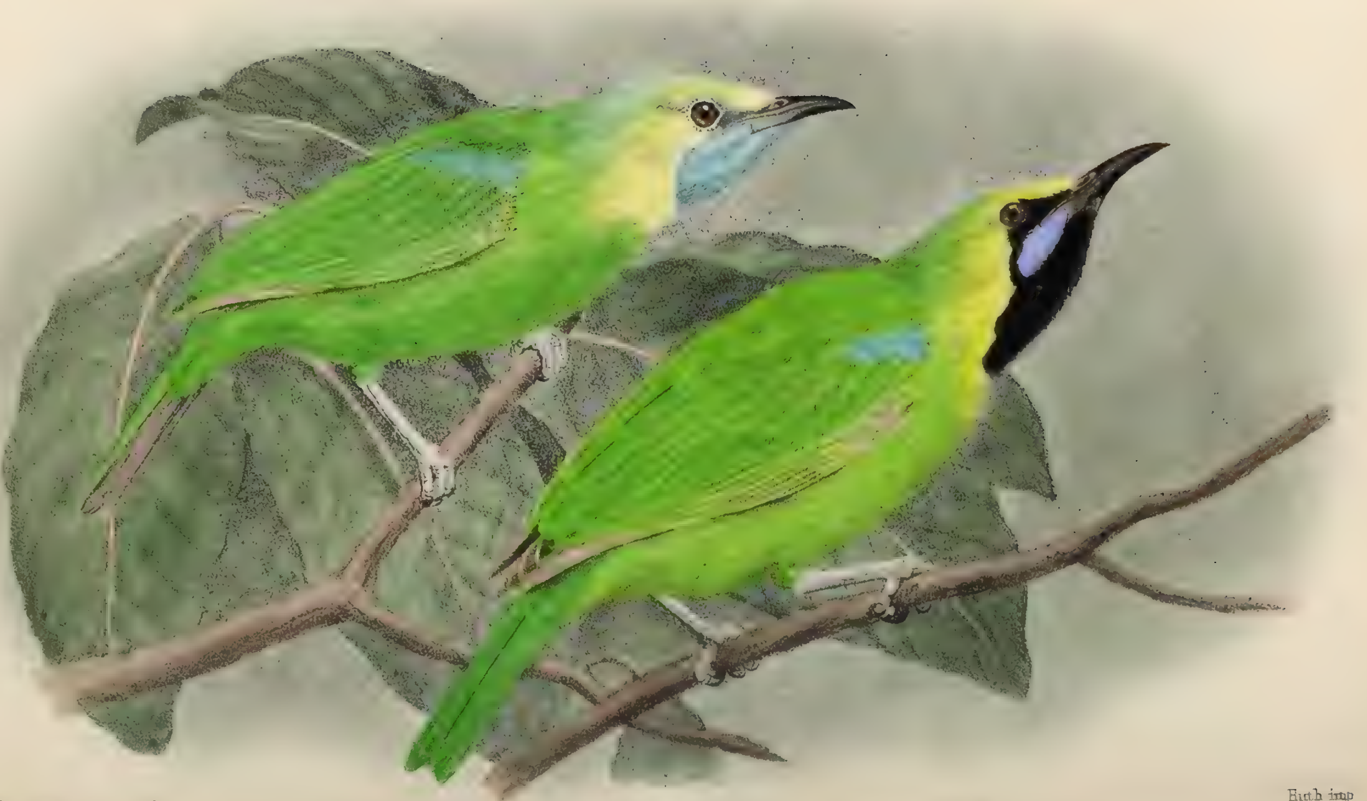
MILITARY TROUPIAL. (W. Shore Baily, Wilts). The breastbone was very thin, and spleen very much enlarged and crammed with small fig-seed like nodules, so characteristic of bird fever. Isolate and disinfect.

SUPERB TANAGER: (W. T. Rogers, Brentwood). The liver was very much enlarged, which is a very common condition in Tanagers, which seem to over-gorge themselves. I do not think the exposure to an outdoor aviary for nearly three years had anything to do with the bird's death. Probably it was aged for a Tanager, and enlargement of the liver increases in frequency after middle life. You deserve credit for taking the bold course of exposing a tropical species to our ever changing climate.

HEN COCKATIEL. (Rev. John M. Paterson, St. John's Vicarage, Hollington, Sussex). No doubt this bird died from convulsions, which probably were produced from some auto-infection of the intestine, which was congested. The cranium also had spots of extravasation in its thickness.

Answered by Post—Mrs. Lily W. Quait, Lady Kathleen Pilkington, E. J. Brook, C. H. Row, Mrs. E. Travis.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.S.



H. Goodchild, del et lith.

Erith imp

JERDON'S GREEN BULBUL (Fruitsucker) ♂ ♀
Chloropsis jerdoni.

From life.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Green Fruitsuckers

(*Chloropsis*).

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

Of all the beautiful groups of birds India has given to us, there are few, if any, that surpass the Green Fruitsuckers (Bulbuls), either for beauty or interest, and perhaps in this respect, the commonest of them all (in this country) the Gold-fronted Fruitsucker (*C. aurifrons*) is deservedly the universal favourite.

Jerdon in his " Birds of India " places these in the Family BRACHYPODIDÆ between the sub-families (*Pycnonotinæ* and *Ireninæ*, as *Phyllornithinæ*, which consists of two genera *Phyllornis* and *Iora*. In this paper I shall refer to them under the generic names of *Chloropsis* (Jard and Selby) and *Iora* (Gmelin). Before proceeding however, I will quote Jerdon's descriptive paragraph on the sub-family *Phyllornithinæ*:—

> " Bill slightly lengthened, more or less curved, of variable strength ;
> " wings moderate ; tail short ; tarsus and feet short, stout. Of a beautiful
> " grass green colour, more or less adorned with glistening blue patches on
> " the throat and shoulders of the wings. This is a small group of very pretty
> " birds found in India, Burmah and Malayana, the species being, as usual,
> " rather locally distributed. Bonaparte places this sub-family among the
> " *Mellipagidæ*. Gray also places *Phyllornis* [*Chlororsis*--ED.] at the end
> " of the *Melliphagidæ*, and Blyth considers that it is allied to that family
> " (though not so nearly as are the Orioles) ; but, in his catalogue, places it
> " and *Iora* in his sub-family *Phyllornithinæ* of the *Pycnonotidæ*, with which
> " I entirely agree. Their general structure and habits are quite like those
> " of the short-footed Thrushes in general, and their geographic distribution
> " coincides with that of the present family. The birds, however, as a rule,
> " are more insectivorous than the true Bulbuls.—(Jerdon's Birds of India,
> Vol. II., page 96.

The Green Bulbuls are certainly distinct from the true Bulbuls, and equally so from the Babblers, and may be fairly taken as the connecting link between the two—in my opinion the term "Green Bulbuls" should be dropped from our list of popular names and that they be designated Fruitsuckers, which is already largely done, and I propose that in future, in *Bird Notes* at any rate, they be only known by the latter cognomen.

Before proceeding to describe the species it will be better to add a few remarks on diet and treatment, which is really very simple—soft ripe fruit, live insects, and a little insectile mixture will suffice to keep them fit and robust (the whole genus are long-lived once they have got over the prostration following importation); they are all however very fond of milk sop and suck it up with great gusto, and personally I believe they are the better for it, but they certainly can be kept without it and when confined in a cage, their domicile is more easily kept dry and sweet, when the sop is omitted from their "bill of fare." But they ought not to be continuously confined to a cage, they should have spells of liberty, once they have become tame, and will often after a fly round settle on their owner's hand or shoulder and can can easily be returned to cage at will, but, I must leave general remarks till later.

JERDON'S FRUITSUCKER (*Chloropsis jerdoni, Blyth*): This species is quite rare on the English market, and only half-a-dozen females at most have been imported, and I do not think any males have been imported since our member Mr. E. W. Harper presented the London Zoological Society with a specimen, which, I think, lived several years in the Western Aviary. There, I had the pleasure of seeing it on the wing many times; beautiful as it is under observation in a cage, its beauty is glorified at once when seen on the wing, or hovering at the top of some twig or flower; to all who have so seen it, the equivalent in English of one of its vernacular names "Ornament of the Forest," will appeal at once. A glance at our plate renders quite unnecessary further eulogy of its beautiful plumage (though the plate, clever as the drawing is, gives but a faint idea of the opaque, yet intense hues and silky texture of its lovely plumage). The studies of the female were made from the bird exhibited by our Exhibition Secretary, Mr. S. M. Townsend at several shows during the past season.

Jerdon calls this the Common Green Bulbul, and tells us that it is spread over the greater part of the continent of India—it does not however extend to Lower Bengal, or to the sub-Himalayan forests. Very common in all the Western provinces, and in the jungles of the Eastern Ghâts —rarer in the open country. It is found in Central India, and through the vast jungles of Chota Naypore up to Midnapore.

Wild Life: Mostly met with in pairs, sometimes in small parties, flitting about the branches, examining the leaves for insects, or taking short flights in pursuit of insect prey, or searching for fruit. In its native haunts as well as in captivity, this bird is an excellent mimic.

The nest is neat, slight, and cup-shaped composed mostly of fine grass and hair, and placed near the extremity of a branch. The eggs are white, more or less blotched, and spotted with claret or purplish markings. The clutch varies from two to four.

DESCRIPTION. *Male* : The adult male is vivid, silky grass-green, with a shoulder patch of rich pale shining blue, quills have the inner webs dusky ; chin, throat and pointed gorget velvet-black, surrounded by a broadish yellow band, which extends through the eyes over the forehead and fore-crown, gradually merging into the green body plumage ; short moustachial streaks hyacinth-blue ; bill dusky at base, blackish towards the tip and along the culmen ; irides brown ; legs and feet plumbeous. Total length 7¼ inches, tail 2¾.

Female: Similar to the male, but her shoulder patch is lighter, and yellow only forms a narrow band across her forehead, and her chin, throat and gorget are greenish-blue : she has no moustachial streaks.

This species appeared to me to be very attractive and intelligent, but not quite so confiding, so far as my experience of it goes, as *aurifrons*, and I purpose dwelling on this phase (comparatively) when describing the Gold-fronted (*C. aurifrons*), which I hope will be figured together with the Malabar (*C. malabaricus*), in our next issue.

(*To be continued*).

Breeding the Mexican Bunting

BY CAPT. G. RICE.

I procured this pair of birds from the continent in the autumn of 1910, and sketchily the cock may be described as similar to our indigenous Yellow-Hammer (Yellow Bunting), but quieter in colour, the yellow areas of the face and throat not so extensive, but of a rich orange hue. I give a more detailed description below.

Length of bird about six and a half inches, typical bunting shape. *Male*: Beak almost black, irides dark brown, forehead bronze-yellow, which does not extend beyond the eyes, forming a kind of blaze, but continues down the throat to the upper part of chest; neck, back, and wings, brownish grey; breast dirty grey streaked and mottled with dark brown down to the vent and under tail coverts.

Female: Not so bright as the male, the head being without the blaze and of a brownish grey, while the chin and throat are of a dirty grey streaked with dark brown, in fact almost black. The breast is more thickly speckled down to the vent, and under tail coverts.

The above pair of birds commenced nesting operations in a bundle of sticks, hanging from the wall of the aviary about six feet from the ground. The nest was cup-shaped when complete; composed of dried grass and lined with moss and feathers. Eggs, dull greyish white in colour, streaked, speckled and blotched, with dark reddish-brown. The eggs appeared to vary very much as regards ground colour and markings. There were four eggs in all; after laying the fourth egg the hen began to sit very closely. During the period of incubation, which lasted about fourteen days, the hen was devotedly watched and fed by her mate, who kept a strict guard over the nest and acted in a most malicious manner to any other occupants of the aviary that flew or perched near. On May 24th (1911) four young birds were hatched and were fed, most diligently, by both parents, upon fresh ants' eggs and a few mealworms that were given occasionally, while at the same time they had free access to the soft food saucer and crushed hemp, canary and white and spray millet seeds. At four weeks the young birds were fully fledged, their plumage was brownish-grey. When about six weeks old they were well able to look after themselves and seemed then to subsist principally upon millet, canary, and crushed hemp. By this time the parent birds had recommenced nesting operations, but this time outside, in a small Xmas tree, growing in the wire covered flight. The nest was placed about three feet from the ground; four eggs were again laid, three of which were hatched, and notwithstanding some severe rainstorms that occurred during the following week all were successfully reared and flew. After the moult, the young assumed the plumage of the hen bird.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 41)

PLATALEIDAE.

Ibis aethiopica. SACRED IBIS.

Range. Nearly the whole of Africa.

This bird, our "White Ibis," is not at all uncommon all along the river, where small parties of three or four are often seen, flying overhead, or wading about the shallows near the banks. At times, too, they may be found on the cultivated lands away from water, looking for food there in the shape of lizards or locusts and other large insects, though as a general rule most of their provender must be of a water-haunting nature. In captivity they appear to do well, if one can judge from the occasional examples one sees running about some up-river trader's yard and living on scraps, "chok" (duck-food) and whatever else they can pick up.

The general colour is white with a black head and neck, and metallic purplish-black wing-tips and elongated scapular plumes of the same colour. In the adult the black-skinned head and neck are bare, but the young have these parts covered with short downy black feathers mottled and here and there with grey; the ornamental wing-plumes too, are absent or very much less noticeable. The length of an adult is about 35 inches. The flesh of a young bird of both our common Ibises is quite eatable, though that of an old one is hard and fishy in flavour. Even a young one is better stewed than roasted and is much improved by skinning before cooking.

Hagedashia hagedash. HAGEDASH IBIS.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L*).

This species is rather commoner than the White Ibis in Gambia, where it is usually known as the "Black Ibis." They generally doze through the heat of the day on some high tree, but in the mornings and evenings are to be found feeding in the swamps, rice-fields, or along the creeks, and also on the corn and groundnut fields, generally in parties of five or six. They are always most wary birds, and most difficult to approach, rising and flying off at the slightest sign of any suspicious attempt to get near them Their food consists of large insects, frogs, etc., but they do not disdain on occasion to share with Vultures, Marabouts, and other carrion-feeders the remains of a dead ox or other animal. As darkness falls they leave their feeding grounds and fly off to some tall tree for the night, but apparently rarely select the same tree on which they passed the day; at least I have never seen any roosting on those trees, which I know as their common haunts during the day. Their note, uttered both on the wing and when perched on a tree is a harsh ringing triple sound, which can be heard at a great distance. It is well suggested by the bird's Mandingo name, " Kanung'a."

Their general colour is olive-brown, darker on the wings and tail and lighter on the head, neck and under parts; there is a patch of dark metallic green washed with bronze on the wing-coverts, while the under wing-and tail-coverts are tinged with a similar but less distinct gloss. The bill is black except along the posterior half of the ridge, where it is red, the legs dark reddish brown. Iris, dark brown; length about 30 inches; i.e. rather smaller than the White Ibis.

Plegadis falcinellus. GLOSSY IBIS.

Range. South Europe and Asia, Australia, Africa, Eastern United States to Florida, Jamaica. (*H.L.*)

The well-known Glossy Ibis, a much smaller bird than either of the two preceding species, I have never yet seen in the Gambia, though its range would appear to include this part of the world.

Platalea alba. AFRICAN SPOONBILL.

Range. Tropical Africa. Madagascar. (*H.L*).

An entirely white bird, about 35 inches long, with a bare crown, face and throat. Its characteristic spoon-shaped bill has the upper mandible wholly pink, the lower black edged with dirty pink, shading into yellow. The legs are red, not black as in the European Spoonbill, in which species too the bare area on the head is confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the base of the bill.

I look upon the Spoonbill as rather a rare bird here, as I have only seen four examples since I have been in this country. the first was on the river in 1901, the second shot from a boat on my way down the river in June, 1904; the third one I had in captivity for some time in 1905, while the fourth was shot this year (1911) on the Sofynyama creek on the South Bank. The bird, however, although rare, is quite well known to the natives, under the name, " Dadosa," the exact Mandingo equivalent for our name, as it literally means " Spoon-mouth."

ARDEIDAE.

Herons of many species are numerous in such a country of swamp and creek, where practically one half of its area consists of water (the river and its creeks) and mangrove or other swamps, which must surely provide all that the most exacting Ardeine heart could desire. Some 15 species probably occur here, but of the differences between a good many of these I am unfortunately ignorant, so will confine myself mainly to those I do know, though for completeness I shall include all species whose range takes in the Gambia.

Herodias lucidus. BUFF-BACKED or CATTLE EGRET.

Range. South Europe to Eastern Asia, Africa, Madagascar, The Mascarenes. (*H.L.*)

A small white Egret with buff crown, nape and back, the feathers of which regions and also on the foreneck are at the breeding season elongated and tapered in the male to form three trails of fluffy ornamental plumes, one from the fore-neck, a third, the largest, from the middle of the back. These plumes are however never of any great length and luckily for the birds seem of no value as "ospreys," at least no one ever appears to collect them. The female has much smaller plumes, while the young have none. Bill and legs brownish yellow; iris yellow. Length 20 inches.

The Cattle-Egret is one of our commonest birds, and is certainly best known of all our Herons from its constant attendance on the innumerable herds of cattle which are the pride of the natives of the Protectorate, among whom cows, besides being mere property, represent or are the outward and visible signs of wealth, power, and importance. The herds are tied up during the night close to or in the towns and every morning after sunrise are loosed and make their way to the nearest marsh, where they graze throughout the day. These Egrets join the cattle, some 10 or 12 to each herd, directly they begin to move and accompany them all day, walking unconcernedly in and out among their bellies and sides or on occasion settling on the backs to get at higher places. At the same time too, they snatch up all the grasshoppers, beetles, lizards, and other creeping things disturbed by the onward movement of the grazing animals, all these no doubt forming their staple food, the ticks coming in as savoury relishes. One often also notices them snapping at the hosts of flies buzzing round the cattle, and I used to hope that they might thus take toll of the Tsetse-flies and thus help to diminish these cursed pests, but although I have shot several in bad Tsetse places and while engaged too in snapping at swarms of flies, many of which were Tsetses, I have never yet seen a Tsetse in any crop I have examined. The recognisable remains have been those of grasshoppers, beetles, locusts, centipedes, white ants, ticks, lizards, occasionally common flies, and in one crop a fair sized mouse. From their constant association with cattle and their herds, these birds are most fearless of man and beast, and will hardly trouble to get out of the way of the latter, or to do more than fly a few yards for one of the former. In the evening, when the cows come home, they follow their particular herd on its leisurely progress to its tying-place and then in a body fly straight for the river, where they are joined by other parties, all of whom roost for the night in large flocks on tall trees overhanging the water, a roosting place which is commonly shared also by numbers of the two White Egrets. Native names are Kunun-koio, (Mandingo) and Nyarapulo, (Jo'off).

(To be Continued)

Meyer's and Everett's Parrotts.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

In January *Bird Notes* p.p. 29 and 30 the Rev. G. H. Raynor expressed the desire that someone would describe his two female specimens (when at Palace Show) of the above rare species. I have attempted the task but found it difficult, as what with bad light, the birds declining to turn as required to bring various areas into view, also the interruptions from the many bird acquaintances present, all combined to make the result not so complete as I would have desired.

MEYER'S PARROT (*Pœocephalus meyeri*). In addition to this being a variable species, Mr. Raynor's bird is getting on in years, for it first appeared at the Palace in 1897. Again the female plumage has not been published as yet, and I have been quite unable to get to the Museum to compare skins (♀) there, but a reference to this species, if necessary, can be made at a later date. The description of the male was made at the Zoo.

Adult Male: With the exception of the lower back, rump and upper tail-coverts, which are intense bluish emerald-green, and an irregular (sometimes crescentic and sometimes split up into two or more patches), rich yellow patch on on the crown, the whole of the upper-surface is fresh-earthy-brown (almost blackish-grey-brown); the bend of the wing, wing-coverts and thighs, yellow; breast, flanks and under-tail-coverts bluish-emerald-green, very rich and intense on the breast. There are some brown feathers mingled with the green on the breast, but these are doubtless lost with increased age; beak, blackish horn-colour; irides, deep red; legs and feet, black-green. Total length, full 9 inches; tail $2\frac{3}{4}$.

Adult female differs from the male as follows: Above she is blackish-brown; lower back, rump, upper tail coverts, breast and abdomen, pure emerald-green; lower abdomen, flanks and underside of tail yellowish-green. The yellow patch across her crown is smaller, and paler.

The Brit. Mus. Cat., Vol. XX. gives the plumage of the young as follows:

> "No yellow band on the crown; scapulars and wing coverts edged "with green; the yellow feathers of the bend of wing, and the under "wing coverts with brown bases; thighs, green; the lower back and the "rump, brighter blue and less green; the lower parts decidedly green "with no bluish tinge."

Also the range as follows:—

> "Habitat, Equatorial Africa from Abyssinia to Transvaal on the "east, and throught the interior to Benguela, and Damara-Land on the "west."

Everett's Parrot (*Tanygnathus everetti*). The Mus. Cat. does not describe the female plumage. Again, I give the description of the Zoo specimen, which is an adult male.

Male: The head is bright green; neck and whole under-surface paler-green, lightly washed with yellow, back of the neck tinged with brownish; back, and upper tail coverts dark green, with a distinct blue margin to each feather; lower back and rump turquoise-blue, the centres of some feathers tinged with greenish; wings, green; lesser wing-coverts, edged with yellowish-green; primary wing-coverts, bluish-green; tail above bright green, tipped with yellowish-green, except the central feather; tail beneath, bright olive-yellow; beak, red; upper mandible, darker than the lower mandible; legs and feet dark grey; irides bright orange-red. Total length 13 inches, tail 5.

Female: Mr. Raynor's specimen is yellowish-green, lighter and more yellow beneath, each feather of the upper surface being margined with lighter yellow-green, the margins on the wing coverts being broader and more distinct; primaries blackish-brown, edged with green; tail grass-green; under tail coverts bright yellow; underside of tail yellow-green; tail, grass-green; beak, white horn-colour; irides, orange-red; legs and feet dark grey.

Before closing these notes I had better give the *menu* Mr. Raynor's birds thrive so well upon. The birds get plenty of fresh air (both indoors and out) and their varied *menu* includes canary, millet, oats, hemp, and sunflower seeds; nuts, and such seed heads as marigolds, hard heads, and shepherd's purse; they are very fond of apple-pips. They also, whenever possible, get a fly round the room daily, this exercise (while tending) is conducive to their general well-being. Those who saw the above two birds at the Horticultural Hall and Crystal Palace Shows, will agree with the writer, that the birds had responded to the wholesome regime they are kept under—not only were they in the best of health and plumage, but they were also very steady and ready to be chummy even on the exhibition bench.

The Black-headed Sibia.

(*Lioptila capistrata,* VIGORS).

Several series of notes of this most interesting species have appeared in our pages, and I consider, it will be of general interest to supplement these with extracts from a most interesting communication to the "Journal of Bombay Natural History Society," by P. T. L. DODSWORTH, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. —ED.

"The Black-headed Sibia is a common bird throughout the N.W. "Himalayas, and is very abundant in the neighbourhood of Simla. It frequents the ranges of these mountains between 5,000 and 8,000 feet . . . ". . . It is a permanent resident throughout its habitat. Hill-sides and "ravines covered with dense, moist forests, especially oaks and other large "trees, thickly coated with moss, are its favourite resorts. It is strictly "arboreal, keeping generally to high trees, though occasionally it is to be "seen on small ones, and also on bushes . . . . . When searching for "food, it frequently clings to a twig, and turns upside down like a Tit. ". . . . . . During the summer months it is usually to be seen singly "or in pairs, but at other seasons in small parties of three or four. . . . ". . . . It is a shy creature, though at times I have noticed it feeding "on trees growing by the roadside, and apparently quite indifferent to the "passers below. Insects appear to be its chief diet, but the gizzards of "several that I have examined from time to time, contained berries, seeds "and other vegetable matter. The rhododendron trees, when in flower, have "a great attraction for these birds, and sometimes as many as half a dozen "or more may be counted on a single tree, eagerly searching for "insects which are likewise attracted by the flowers. In order to secure these insects, the birds plunge the whole of their bills into the "flowers, and getting the pollen smeared on their heads and cheeks, present, at close quarters a most comical appearance. . . . . The "female of this species is a smaller bird. The mouth is pale fleshy. In the "description of this species, Oates makes no mention of the facts that the "feathers of the head are white shafted for their basal halves, and "that the chin feathers are whitish, or very pale fulvous (more so in females) passing into the rufous of the breast. Again in the females, the "head feathers are sometimes sooty-brown. The collar round the *upper* "portion of the neck is not *bright* but pale rufous. The lesser wing coverts "in my specimens are not *rufous*, but *dark brownish-grey* mixed with black; "the primaries are distinctly insinuated towards the tips; and the tertiaries, besides being pale shafted for their entire lengths, are usually "edged with black on the inner margins."

"On three or four occasions, I have had the good fortune to witness "the courtship of these birds, which is rather amusing. One runs, or "rather hops along a branch, with drooping wings and cocked tail, till it "reaches its mate, and then both birds sit, side by side, with ruffled feathers for a few seconds, after which this process is repeated over and "over again; the birds eventually flying off to another tree, and commencing afresh as before. A peculiar sharp twitter or chuckle is emitted "by one of the birds during these antics, but the latter all end here and "must presumably be only the preliminaries. For I have not yet seen a "pair *in copula*."

[A very similar performance was gone through in my aviary amid the branches, but they wound up by quite a dancing performance by the male, which was followed on three occasions by *copulation*.—Owing to a removal the birds shortly afterwards passed out of my possession and I was disappointed in my hope, for the time being, of breeding the species.—Ed.]

"I must not forget to mention here two other points. The "first is that I have usually noticed more than *two* birds taking "part in these courtships, and the second is that the hens in this "species sometimes appear to court the cocks. On the 25th of "June 1911 I came across three birds—a large one and two "*small* ones indulging in the antics already described. The large bird "was a cock, and the two small ones were, I think hens; and I must confess "that their behaviour gave me the impression they were fighting with each "other for the possesion of the male, One of the small birds drove the "other small one away, and then she squatted on a branch by the side of "the large bird. Just as they got together, I shot the couple, and on "dissection, they turned out, as I suspected, to be of opposite sexes. Now "the bird driven away, was, as already stated, a small bird, and I think "there can be little doubt that it was another female. In spite of repeated "attempts, however, I failed to secure it, for had I succeeded, all uncertainty in the matter would have beeen removed, still I have no doubt "whatever in my own mind that it was a *female*, All this behaviour on "the part of the hens sounds very unladylike I know, and is at variance "with Darwin's theory of Sexual Selection, to wit, that among all species "of animals there is a competition among the males to secure females "as mates, but I take this opportunity of putting on record what I think "to be true."

[Will those of our members who have true pairs of this species, take particular note as to their size? While my birds were an undoubted pair, I could distinguish no difference in size, and it was only after seeing them pair, that I was able to pick out one from the other; and the closest observation only revealed to me that the female was almost imperceptably paler in colour, and that the front of her crest was a little narrower than that of her mate.—Ed.]

"My *earliest* and *latest* dates are 9th of June (3 semi-incubated "eggs), and 7th of August (3 fresh eggs), respectively. I may mention "however that on the 9th May, I found a nest containing two young ones "about a week or ten days old. The eggs in this case must have been laid "during the *third week in April*, but this is exceptional. . . . . . The "nests are generally built either in trees or bushes on the edges of forests, "though it is by no means unusual to find them towards the middle, "or in the heart of a thickly covered hillside, The nests are placed either "at the ends of branches, or on one of the upper forks, or where several "small twigs shoot upwards from a horizontal branch, and no matter "what their position, they are, as a rule, well concealed. In fact, they are "very difficult nests to find, but the birds themselves sometimes give away "the show by uttering a sharp twitter, if a person happens to approach too "close to the tree containing the nest. . . . . So far as my experience goes, "the trees which are preferred in Simla for nesting by these birds are "either oaks or rhododendrons. Only once I have found a nest in a small "holly. The heights of the nests varied 8 to 60 feet, but the average of "17 nests was 26½ feet. The nests are neat cup-shaped structures, com-"posed exteriorly of a layer of moss, in which a good many leaves, pieces "of bark, and cobwebs are occasionally incorporated, and lined interiorly "with the roots of the maiden-hair fern and other plants. One nest which "I have in my collection, is of a very unusual shape : It is something like "an inverted cone, and is 7½ inches in height. It was placed against the "trunk of a medium sized rhododendron, and was beautifully concealed by "some twigs, shooting at right angles below it . . . . The materials "composing the nests are firmly interwoven together, and the structures "themselves are securely attached to the surrounding twigs. Some of "the nests situated at the extreme ends of branches appeared to occupy "most precarious positions, but I have never yet known one to be blown "down by wind."

"The dimensions of six nests (excluding the abmormal one) were as "follows :—

"Depth of egg cavity varies from 1·75 in. to 2 2 in."

"Diameter of egg cavity 3in."

"External diameter varies from 4·25 in. to 4·5 in,"

"Height varies from 3 in. to 3·5 in."

"Thickness of bottom varies from 1 in. to 1·6 in."

"Thickness of sides varies from ·65 in to ·75 in."

"Both birds share in carrying materials, and in building operations. "I have, however, on one or two occasions noticed that the cock brought "the materials, and the hen alone was the architect . . . . . When "the nest has been completed, a very short period seems to elapse before

"the first egg is laid. These Sibias have a peculiar habit of deserting
"their nests on the least provocation—*merely climbing* the tree and only
"peeping into the nest in some cases is enough—and it is most difficult
"therefore to make any observations. I have been unable to ascertain
"the time which elapses between the laying of the eggs, but the hen be-
"gins to brood after the first egg has been laid. She is very wary, and
"generally leaves the nest long before a person gets to the tree. So far as
"my experieces go, I do not think that the cock takes any part in the
"hatching of the eggs. The number of eggs varied from two to three.
"In one nest I found a solitary chick wiggling out of the shell, and the
"largest number of young found in a nest were two . . . . . I am
"unable to give the period of incubation, but I doubt if it exeeds fourteen
"days. Both birds feed the young, but there are gaps in my notes as to
"how long the latter remain in the nest."

[Mrs. Warren Vernon in 1908 met with a partial success with this species, full details of which appeared in *B.N.*, Vol. VII., pages 148—9. It will, I think, however, be well to recapitulate the main facts here :—

Building operations were commenced 12th July and the nest was completed two days later.

The nest was constructed of hay—very deep—in some branches against wire netting, facing west.

Two eggs were laid, a little shorter than a Blackbird's, pale blue in colour with brown markings.

The first egg was laid on June 22nd, and the second on the 23rd.

First egg hatched July 6th, second July 7th.

The fledgelings were blind, quite naked, and of a deep red-brown colour.

The last hatched fledgeling only lived five days, the other throve well, the quills appeared on the seventh day, on the tenth day the colours of the plumage were plainly visible, and on the twelvth day, when it died, it was in every respect the same in colouring as its parents—it was well nourished and there was no apparent cause save inclement weather for its death.

With best thanks and apologies to Mr. Dodsworth and the editors of J. of B.N.H.S.—Ed.]

Seasonable Preparations.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

In response to many requests I am penning a few general notes, on a topic of common interest, and am requested not to neglect the tyro herein.

The first thing, if not already done, is a general "spring cleaning." Wash down the shelter with water containing Condy's fluid, take down all unoccupied nest boxes, husks, etc., clean out and well swill with a 10 per cent. carbolic solution, leave to dry in the open air, and when dry replace. It is a good time to renew all perching branches and cover – everything should then be clean and sweet for the season and little if any disturbance necessary while the breeding season runs its course.

The next step is the flight, all renewals of shrubs, etc., should be made good at once. Euonymus, Privet, Elder, Rose, Laurel, Box, and Currant are all good and safe. An abundance of creepers also should be put in, to climb anywhere and everywhere, except the front of the aviary. A garden arch or two if the flight is roomy enough, may be placed in suitable positions for the climbers to trail over. Hops, Honeysuckle, Clematis (wild), Virginian Creeper, Bellbine, and Ivy are all excellent.

Whenever it is possible two aviaries should be arranged, or at any rate summer quarters for odd birds, and young when able to fend for themselves, so that only pairs should be in the breeding aviary proper. Personally I have not found large (in reason) and small species, or "soft-bills" and "hardbills" to materially interfere one with the other, providing they were not overcrowded, and the cosmopolitan character of the *menu* provided under such conditions, also the spirit of competition in a mixed series, have all tended towards success—thus have some of the dreams of our early days *e.g.* an aviary with growing bush for single pairs, been dissipated, when actually tested and I must confess that now my opinion is (I am not referring to Parrots and Parrakeets, etc.), that a mixed community, with plenty of space, if not too cosmopolitan, give better results than single pairs in separate and more restricted quarters. The conditions are nearer to Nature, such as the contentions with other species (if not too severe), the working for food, etc., all tend towards success, while unlimited supplies, *without effort, often spell failure.*

Now, as to the birds: Under such conditions, separation of sexes is unnecessary, but where birds are taken indoors during the winter months, the sexes are better kept separate. Most of the popular groups may be kept together, according to the size of the aviary, but not two pairs of the same species. The groups referred to are: Grosbeaks, True Finches, Buntings, Waxbills, Weavers, Whydahs, Mannikins, Cardinals, Warblers, Chats, and Tanagers.

When making up the pairs for the season, I repeat, it is best to have *only pairs in the breeding aviary* and to remove all odd birds to any quarters available. Another important point is to see that both sexes of the respective pairs are in *perfect condition,* or success cannot be attained, as the weaklings would only be unmercifully bullied by their stronger (more fit) brethren.

An abundance of nesting receptacles is a *sine qua non,* for many species prefer an artificial site, to the natural one, though, of course, many will choose the latter, and such should be encouraged as much as possible, as the data gained from such episodes is the more valuable. As to nesting receptacles boxes of all shapes (closed and open), straw hats, small barrels, husks, chip cages, rush nests, hamper tops for Doves and Pigeons, should be placed about in good numbers and variety.

The next point is general oversight. Observation should be very close all the season, pairs need a little assistance at times, especially those choosing natural sites, or which build fragile nests—after a gale of wind, a partially dislodged nest may be made secure, or when a brood is all but reared and the domicile is too small, the enlarging of it, when parents were foraging, by such steps as picking it up, placing and securing a larger nest (it will be a good thing to have a few disused Thrush or Blackbirds' nests for such purposes) underneath it, or the wrapping round of a band of hay and securing same both to nest and branches has saved many a chick. Moreover, observation tends to the securing many interesting details concerning the life histories of the various species, and intensifies the diversified interest and pleasure of bird-keeping.

By the time these notes are in print it will be well to stimulate the birds with such live-food (not necessarily mealworms) as is available, and this brings us to the general question of what to supply—for the mixed aviary it should be general, viz., milk-sop, fruit, insectile mixture, seeds, in variety, and green food. Experience will soon teach the respective proportions.

Now the all important question comes, how best to supply live-food. In my opinion this is better scattered broadcast, over the floor, among the grass, etc., amid and over the bushes, etc., in the aviary. Not only does this give all a better chance, but also causes the birds to work (forage) for what they get. With the more timid species it is easy to secure them a supply, they come round you, on the look out, when you enter with the live bait tin, and it is easy to supply their wants before you leave, if they will not take it from the hand they will come almost to your feet for it. Again, it is very important that the live food should be varied during the season—wasp grub, gentles, live ants' eggs, and mealworms, are all procurable commercially, and smooth caterpillars, small beetles, spiders, and any garden insects, also their larvæ and and pupæ may be given. An entomological sweeping-net taken out of a morning and swept along the bottom of a hadgerow or amid rough herbage, will secure a varied supply; the contents of the net simply emptied into a convenient receptacle and this in its turn emptied into the aviary for the birds to forage among at will. Comb containing wasp grub should be hung about the aviary in its season and the birds will help themselves.

The above is very general and homely, and in parts possibly controversial—well, if it should occasion correspondence it will not have served a bad purpose, for, such should prove of mutual gain.

As a last word, I urge upon all my readers to keep an aviary log-book and to carefully note all the details from the egg to the mature bird, of such species as they succeed in breeding, and also to carefully note the general demeanour of the birds they keep, at all periods of the year.

BRITISH BIRDS.

Notes on the Swallow.

(*Hirùndo rustica, Lin.*)

BY P. F. M. GALLOWAY.

This species is one of the most interesting of insectivorous birds to study.

It is about five years ago that my Swallow died, the cause of death was neither disease, nor accident, but sheer old age. He was hand reared by me and died at the age of seven years and seven months. He was kept in a large properly constructed cage, and was allowed out for a couple of hours or more wing exercise every day, and I never knew him to be out of health at any time, not even during the moult. He was always tight in feather, continually in song, even in the winter, and in the same perfect condition as he would have been in the wild state; his plumage shone like satin.

I certainly think that the age he attained, was probably considerably greater than he would have stood a chance of reaching in the wild state, for, whilst under my care he had no enemies to contend with—birds run far greater risks of being killed, in the wild state, than most people are aware of.

There is the chance of being shot by the pot hunter, who will shoot at anything he sees; there are also Hawks of various species, which I have seen chase small birds and catch them in their talons on the wing; there are Owls, especially the Brown and the Horned species, which in the summer evenings will capture old birds even as large as a Thrush, as well as young, as soon as the latter are out of the nest and able to perch.

Then there are the weasels, stoats, rats, cats, hedgehogs and even wood-mice, which will kill off wholesale young birds in the nest, especially those situated near or not far from the ground. Jays and Magpies will also take them, and even attack Tree-creepers' nests, situated behind a piece of loose bark of a tree, by splitting open the bark with their beaks, and then pulling out the young and devouring them.

I have known quite sixty nests, some containing eggs, and the others young birds, of which the eggs were destroyed and all birds killed, in one season, by weasels, mice, etc., and goodness knows how many more were destroyed that I did not happen to know of. Then there are the trying periods of migration, many scores of birds are killed by dashing into lighthouses, others occasionally alight on boats at sea in an exhausted condition. The Swallow has to face even a greater enemy than most soft-billed birds on account of feeding entirely on insects whilst on the wing—that enemy is the weather—softbills that obtain their food on trees and upon the ground will stand a better chance of living through unseasonable periods during the spring months, than those that feed entirely on the wing. The Swallow has been written of, as a bird that knows not frost or snow, meaning, I suppose that this species is associated in the minds of people, with lovely warm sunshine, and clear blue skies, but how ridiculous.

No doubt it should only be associated with that true genial spring weather, but if we think of the type of weather that has taken place during the spring months some years, we shall see that Nature can be very cruel, and the very unseasonable weather that has occurred in the past is just as likely to occur again at some future time.

I am incorporating with these notes some general remarks on the effect of inclement weather, etc., on this and other insectivorous species.

Some three years ago, I think it was, we had an unusually cold, cheerless, wet spring, the rain continuing for some weeks, ending in a summer flood during June. At this time, Sedge Warblers had eggs, and many other species which build in ditches and in situations around and near the river, had their nests destroyed, and no doubt Sand Martins in their holes in certain parts of the river banks, had a very bad time of it, as the water rose rather rapidly; the Reed Warblers not breeding until July would escape.

The floods drove all the vermin out of the ditches up into the woods that sloped down towards the river, and here they played havoc with the birds. I found quite a number of nests of Blackbirds, Thrushes, and Hedge Sparrows with eggs destroyed and out of several nests that had contained young, all that remained in the nests were the legs and wing bones, eloquent evidence of the sad tragedy.

In many springs the months of April and May are visited with hail and sleet showers, followed by severe frosts at night, and it is only four years ago this very month that a severe blizzard occurred as late as the 25th of April, which reminded one of an extra rough blizzard in January, instead of which it was close upon the "merry month of May." The Swallows and other summer migrants were quite a fortnight late as it was and they all seemed to appear suddenly in the snow. Swallows were flying aimlessly about and looked three times their ordinary size, through being puffed out with the intense cold and starvation, for instead of flies for them to feed upon, there was nothing but snowflakes, not an atom of food for them, and several that I saw in little flocks of five or six pass me, were in such a condition that they could not have possibly survived until the next morning, when fortunately a thaw set in. A friend of mine told me he was on a boat and saw some Swallows settle on the end of it, and after rocking to and fro a while dropped one by one into the water, evidently helpless with the cold.

The next morning, April 26th, I was up early, and went out for a walk and it was really absurd to see the Cuckoo flying over the snow-bound country. I also saw a Wryneck, and caught and examined three Tree Pipits; their breast bones were very sharp, like a knife, hardly any flesh on them, and if the thaw had not set in when it did, thou- of migrants must have perished, not from the cold, but from starvation, there being practically no insect food for them. Young Thrushes were standing about calling for food, and although out of the nest and large enough to fly, they stood there half starved and I picked up some in the lanes and placed them in the hedge, whether they survived I don't know.

Now with all the inclement and unseasonable weather that occurs during the spring months, migrants would survive all the cold if they could only find sufficient food. This I have proved during the winter that is supposed to have just passed (although to-day, April 1st, it is bitter cold, with a rough northerly wind and the clouds full of hail and snow, which may continue for several days yet) having kept a Nightingale and pair of Swallows hand-reared in an aviary, in my out-door bird house, since last September; the Nightingale and male Swallow are singing every day, the latter have just completed their vernal moult, and are in lovely condition, and will feed from my hand. They are flying about at intervals all day long, and are soon going to a large aviary belonging to one of our members, fitted up for their requirements, which aviary, I believe, is exclusively for their use, and I shall be surprised if they do not build and nest there this season. These birds have been kept without any artificial heat whatever, and although the winter has been mild, there was a week's exceptionally keen frost, one night three degrees below zero, and each morning everything was completely frozen up, but the birds were in robust health and fine condition the cold having no effect on them. They were fed on my own soft food ("Life") mealworms, and a few gentles.

A wild Swallow could not have endured that severe weather, simply because of lack of food. Both Swallows and House Martins may be seen long after the Sand Martin has departed from our shores, some even as late as the early part of November, and I am convinced that if the birds were able to find sufficient of their natural food during the autumn and winter, there would be no necessity for them to leave us every autumn.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: Already the inmates of our aviaries are responding to the first genial advances of spring, and some adventurous spirits have built, laid, and are incubating clutches of eggs. In my own aviary, most pairs are prospecting—Bronze-wing Mannikins have young, and Californian Quail have sixteen eggs, in a scraped out hollow at the foot of a privet bush. Dr. Gosse sends me a post card stating that Bronze-wing Pigeons hatched out on March 31st, and that Red-rump Parrakeets and Grey-headed (Madagascar) Lovebirds are incubating clutches of eggs. Mr. Shore-Baily informs me that in his out-door aviaries, Violet, Crested, Diamond and Brush-Bronzewing Doves are all incubating, and that Budgerigars and Black-cheek Lovebirds are similarly engaged. In his indoor birdroom Black-headed Gouldian Finches are closely incubating a clutch of eggs. Mr. Shore-Baily has recently acquired a pair of Brown-winged Blue Grosbeaks (*G. cærulea*), and we trust in one of his roomy enclosures he will succeed in breeding this rare species, which has not previously bred in captivity. I was at the aviaries of L.M. Treloar Cripples' Hospital and College on 2nd inst., and here, too, the birds were very busy—Budgerigars feeding and incubating, Cutthroats, Bengalese and others already incubating clutches of eggs. I was also interested in a Blackbird's nest, built in the head of an ordinary garden besom, which had been placed in a corner for use as required in the aviary, and though it was close by the entrance door, with the attendant passing in and out several times daily, she had steadily incubated and on the occasion of my visit there were two well developed youngsters just commencing to feather. The brooding hen permitted me to approach within twelve inches without a movement, undoubtedly the young will be fully reared. I may say no live food has been supplied, but many earth-worms, etc., are obtained in the aviary flight.

AN EARLY YOUNGSTER: Dr. Scott, writing on 7th inst., includes some interesting remarks concerning his birds, which, *without permission*, I am giving here as of general interest: "Fine weather is bringing on the birds. Two days ago on "Good Friday—I found a young bird flying round the lawn "aviary (No. 3)—strong and vigorous on the wing—something "like a Bib Finch without his 'feeder' on . . . . . I can "give no notes, at first I was in some doubt as to its parent-"age, but now find that a pair of Grey Finches (*Spermophila* "*grisea*) are evidently its progenitors. The Blue Tanagers, "Rufous-throated Blue Sugarbirds, and both pairs of Scarlet "Tanagers (one pair in each aviary) are all nesting, or at any "rate playing at nest building."

To the above I would like to add that, the *Spermophilæ* are evidently adepts at "hide and seek," for both Mr. Teschemaker and myself reared young from *S. grisea*, and Mr. A. Sutcliffe from *S. ocellata* last season, without being able to find the nest from which they emanated and in the consequent absence of all data have not claimed the record.

Birds Nesting in the Nilva Valley (*Garwhal*). Under the above title Mr. S. L. Whymper communicates some very interesting Field Notes of the birds of this region, to the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society Vol. XX., part 4, from which we extract the following:

Spotted Bush Warbler (*Tibura thoracia*): Breeds fairly commonly in the valley at about 12,000 feet—numerous nest were seen in June and July. The nests are domed and placed on the ground in a tuft of grass or among thick herbage, constructed entirely of grass with usually a simple feather as a lining. The full clutch seems to be four, but three is the more usual number.

Blue-headed Robin (*Adelura cæruleicephala*): Mr. Whymper met with three nests, each with four fresh eggs, in the last fortnight of May. All were placed in banks and concealed with drooping grasses. The birds are very wary, the male while building appearing to be always on guard. The female sits very close once the eggs are laid, and we could never find a nest by searching, the only chance was to meet with a pair building. The eggs are of a dull cream colour, with a darker zone.

Blue-fronted Redstart (*Ruticilla frontalis*). A common nest from 11,000 to 13,000 feet, mostly on the ground, usually sheltered by an overhanging bank—one was found in a very unusual position—quite 20 feet up a birch, in a cavity.

White-browed Rosefinch (*Propasser thura*). Two nests were found at 13,000 feet at the end of July, placed low down in juniper trees and built solidly of dry grass with an inner lining of hair. The clutch appears to be four, and and the ground colour of the eggs is greenish blue, sparingly spotted with black.

Beautiful Rosefinch (*P. pulcherrimus*) : Very common—numerous nests found, all placed low down in prickly bushes, constructed of dry grass with hair—clutch usually four, occasionally five. The eggs are a clear greenish-blue with black spots.—(From J.B.N.H.S.).

Errata: " Mr. Temple's Aviaries and Birds," page 63. The photos illustrating this article were not taken by

Mr. Temple, but by his friend, Dr. M. Amsler—in the absence of information we assumed that they were by Mr. Temple, hence the error.

Page 88, line 24, for "Rital bristles" read *Rictal bristles.*

Page 90, line 5, for "Blue Chaffinches" read *Blue Chaffinch.*

Page 91, line 2 from bottom, for "neither do they not attain," read *neither do they attain.*

Page 92, line 11, for "bround," read *ground.*

Some Colony Birds.

Compiled by W. T. Page, F.Z.S., from an article by the Rev. Chas. B. Dawson. J.S., M.A., in "TIMEHRI" (The Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana), with compliments and thanks to the Author and Editors.

The Author in his opening remarks, or better preface, utters some deep truths regarding animal life generally, which I commend to the careful consideration of my readers, at the same time it must not be implied that I endorse all the views expressed, but it should all tend to the more intelligent enjoyment of wild life and aviculture. I would also desire to propound a question for general consideration. Do we, as aviculturists, sufficiently observe and *record* what takes place in our aviaries, or compare such with wild habits, or study cause and effect as we should ?

> "In this article and in others to follow under the same title, I pro-
> "pose to give an account, colloquial rather than scientific, of such birds
> "of our colony as have fallen or may fall under my observation while
> "within the bars of a cage."
>
> "It is only when creatures are studied in this way that their full
> "character can be determined, though the student must by no means con-
> "fine himself to this method alone. He must also go abroad and visit the
> "haunts of the birds he would study [or do this from the writings of
> "others, when direct observation is not possible.—Ed. *B.N.*] ; and then
> "diligently and carefully bring all his powers of observation, and all his
> "scientific knowledge into play, adding trait upon trait, and line upon line
> "until the full character is portrayed. This is what I have attempted to
> "do ; and though I do not flatter myself that I have yet acquired a com-
> "plete knowledge of any one species, I think I may have gained sufficient
> "new information to make this article interesting to readers of *Timehri*,
> "and to stimulate research in similar directions."
>
> "In spite of all that has been said and written, ignorance of the ways
> "and habits of even the common forms of our bird and animal life is

"widespread, and wrong notions prevalent. How many persons for in-
"stance as they walk down Brick dam or Main Streets are able to give the
"right name to every bird they see? While the birds they do not see, but
"which scan them closely with their bright black eyes, number many
"more. And yet an untold delight may be derived from a personal know-
"ledge of our feathered friends, as the initiated well understand."

If we so studied our indigenous species and the occupants of our aviaries, how greatly would be increased our zeal, delight and interest therein—at once our bird-keeping would be elevated from a mere hobby to an actual cult.

(To be Continued)

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

Black-Headed Siskin (♂). (W. E. Teschemaker, Teignmouth). Death was due to an intense pneumonia of both lungs.

Blue-Winged Lovebird (♂) (W. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts). Death was due to an acute enteritis.

Red Rosella (♀) (John Sherard Reeves, Leadenham Ho. Lincoln). The brain of this bird contained a minute blood clot in its centre. The other parts of the body had a healthy appearance.

Yellow Budgerigar (♀). (Miss A. Eccles, Ditton Hill, Surrey). Death was due to pneumonia.

Nightingale (♂). (Miss L. Clare, Raynes Park). Death was due to acute pneumonia.

Sunbird (♂). (P. Owen, Chelsea, S.W). Death was due to pneumonia

J. Sumner Marriner, Woodbank, Leeds. Label but no package received.

Answered by post.—S. Clarke, Inces, Scaynes Hill, Haywards Heath.

HENRY GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Photos by H. Willford

The Young Cuckoo seems never satisfied.

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BIRD NOTES:

THE

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Bird Life through the Camera.

BY H. WILLFORD.

(*Continued from page* 92).

THE MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*), and CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*).

The Meadow Pipit, like the Skylark—another ground-nester—is a bird which is met with all over the country and annually brings into existence, or rather helps to, more young Cuckoos than any other of the feathered tribe. They start nesting about April choosing some rough meadow or furze and bracken covered common, and often nest as late as August. The nest does not consist of much material, chiefly fine bents of grass and hair, neatly constructed under a sheltering tuft of coarser grass, also often placed in the shade of a clump of bracken, and so closely does the hen sit that one may pass the nest within an inch or two and she will refuse to move.

The eggs are from four to six in number, of a brownish grey colour, and of a very mottled appearance.

The young are fed on small flies, grubs, etc., and the parents when bringing food to their offspring follow the same procedure as the Skylark, by pitching some distance from the nest to which they stealthily creep, stopping to utter a faint song to let the young know food is near.

In 1911 I found a nest containing a Cuckoo's and four Pipit's eggs; when they were about due to hatch I kept a fairly close watch. The Pipits were hatched first, some twenty four hours before the Cuckoo, but, within two days the young Cuckoo had started to eject the other inmates of the nest, and, I was lucky to pay the nest a visit at the critical moment—two had already been thrown out and the Cuckoo was busily engaged in removing number three by working it on to his back, and having succeeded so far, raised himself up on his legs, one a little higher than the other, and over the edge went Pipit number three. I replaced them twice but each time they were dealt with in the same way, so I took them home and gave them to a pair of Hedge Sparrows that had young in one of my aviaries. But, although they kept them alive for three or four days the young Pipits eventually succumbed.

The Cuckoo arrives in our country about the end of April and is met with throughout Great Britain; they lay their egg on the ground and then by means of their beak place it in the nest of the chosen foster parents. The young Cuckoo being supplied with a hollow in its back, has no difficulty in ejecting eggs or young, whichever it happens to be.

The foster parents are kept busy from now onwards feeding their voracious child, for the young Cuckoo never seems satisfied, taking some time to fledge, and is fed long after it leaves the nest.

To be continued.

Foreign Birds.

(TANAGRIDÆ).

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc.

Continued from page 4.

Sub. Family iii. TANAGRINÆ.

RED-BELLIED BLUE TANAGER (*Tanagrella velia*). I am not aware of any instance of this species having been imported alive into this country, and believe it to be unknown to English aviculture. It ranges over Cayenne and Guiana, generally, practically the whole of this genus would be a most desirable acquisition.

Description: The adult *male* is rich velvety-black above, with the sides of head, external edgings of wing, tail feathers and upper tail coverts brilliant blue; below rich blue, with an irregular band of black crossing the throat; middle of abdomen and ventral region chestnut-red; bill black; legs and feet dark brown, total length $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches, tail 2 inches. *Female*: Similar to male, but the lines of her plumage much less intense.

PURPLE-FRONTED TANAGER (*T. iridina*). Another species not known to English aviculture and like the preceding most desirable. It ranges over the Amazon region, Rio Negro, and the interior of Colombia.

Photos by H. Willford

The Meadow Pipit at Home.

1. Arriving with food for her newly hatched chicks.
2. She broods her chicks with great care.

Description; The adult *male* is glossy black above ; forehead, sides of head, external edgings of wing and tail feathers, and upper tail coverts rich purple-blue ; lower back silvery green ; below it is purplish-blue with an irregular, black collar across the throat, and the middle of abdomen and ventral region ruddy chestnut ; bill black ; legs and feet dark brown. Total length 5¼ inches, tail 2¼. The *female* is similar but less intense in colour.

Green-fronted Tanager (*T. calophrys*). Not known to English aviculture, but a very beautiful species. It ranges over the Upper Amazon region.

Description: The adult *male* is velvety black above ; forehead, broad superciliaries and lower-back glossy silvery-green ; external edgings of wings and tail feathers rich purple-blue ! below purple-blue with the middle of abdomen and ventral region black ; bill, legs and feet black. Total length 5¼ inches, tail 2⅛. The *female* is similar but duller.

CHLOROCHRYSA.

Black-gorgeted Tanager (*C. calliparia*). Not known to English aviculture. It is a South American species, ranging over Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

Description : The general body colouring is brilliant, silky grass-green, passing into blue on the centre of abdomen ; a spot of rich orange adorns the crown ; rump orange bordered above and below with bluish ; throat black, with a deep chestnut patch on each side of the neck ; under surface of wings and tail black ; bill black ; legs and feet deep brownish-black. Total length 4¾ inches, tail 1⅞. *Female* similar but colour areas less intense in hue.

Red-eared Tanager (*C. phoenicotis*) Not known to English aviculture. Its range is confined to Western Ecuador.

Description: Uniform glistening grass-green, excepting the ear-coverts which are coral-red, and two spots on each side of the face, the lesser wing-coverts and thighs glistening yellowish-olive ; under surface of tail blackish ; bill black ; legs and feet dark blackish-brown. Total length 5 inches, tail 1¾.

Yellow-gorgeted Tanager (*C. nitidissima*) : Not known to English aviculture.

Description: The *male* above is glistening grass-green, lightly washed with blue on the lower back and with orange on the rump ; forehead, face and throat rich golden yellow lighter at back of head and behind the ears ; neck orange-yellow, a black spot adorns each side of the neck ; abdomen rich blue-green with a black spot in the centre ; bill black ; legs and feet dark brown. Total length 5 inches, tail 1⅝.

PIPRIDEA.

Dark-backed Tanager (*P. melanonota*). I do not remember to have seen a living specimen of this species, which may well described as a short and stubby *Calliste*. I believe to be new to English aviculture—if any reader has possessed this species will they please send me details.

Description: The *male* is violet-blue above with the upper back blackish ; wings and tail black with most of the feathers edged with blue ; narrow frontal band, lores and sides of the head deep velvety-black ; below palish ochre yellow ; underside of tail blackish ; bill black ; legs and feet dark brown. Total length 5¾ inches, tail 2¼. The *female* is dark brown above, lighly washed with blue on the head and rump ; below pale ochre-yellow.

According to the Museum Catalogue this species ranges over Paraquay, S.E. Brazil, Bolivia, Peru. Ecuador and Venezuela.

For food and treatment of the foregoing species, see pages 1 to 4 of current volume.

(To be Continued.)

The Life Story of a Mealy Redpoll.

TOLD BY HIMSELF.

Last summer I asked the Boss if he was going to write anything about myself and my family, but he said that he did not see much use in writing about a British species for a Foreign Bird Magazine. I asked him if he did not consider us an interesting family, and he said that our nesting was the most interesting event that took place in the aviary last season, but that it would not interest them. [? Ed.] However, I said it seemed a pity not to record it, and, if he was not keen on writing the article, I would have a shot at it myself; my chief difficulty was to know what sort of things to talk about. "Well," said the Boss, after reflecting a little, "it really does not matter much, because they won't read it but, whatever you say, let it be something fresh and new, for I am tired to death of reading the same commonplaces week after week and month after month; tell us about the homeland and the old folks and what you have seen—in a word, tell us something interesting, and, if you can't tell us anything interesting, don't waste our time and yours." So here goes.

As you fly eastward from the North Cape you first pass Vardoe, which is a little fishing town with horrible smells - even high up in the air you can smell the drying cod and the fish oil, ugh! Then you come to the Murman coast. Here you may sometimes see a splendid sight for berg and floe and pack torn from the great Polar ice-field are spewed forth by the Kara Sea through the Kara Strait and carried by a westerly current towards the North Atlantic and, when a northerly gale lashes the Barents Sea into fury, it hurls the floes against this rock-bound coast and floe is piled on floe with tremendous rending and riving and groaning and grinding. Then you cross the Varanger Fjord and come to the little village of Lutni and a river. The river flows through a majestic gorge, the sides of which are covered with the densest birch-scrub, and, if you follow the river inland to its source, you will come to Lake Ukanskoe, and this was my birthplace. Yes, from the hanging birch-wood on the east side of the lake I first saw the midnight sun: how I wonder if I shall ever see it again!

And what is lake Ukanskoe like? Well, it is a small lake of very clear water which lies snugly surrounded by birch-clad hills; the river, which rises amongst some lakes a little further inland, flows in at one end and flows out at the other; there are islets in the lake where Red-throated Divers and Temminck's Stints nest and Wood Sandpipers and Shore Larks. In the Willow-swamp at the lower end the Great Snipe breeds. On the placid waters of the lake Scoters and Goosanders and Long-tailed Ducks paddle about and in the thich-woods may be heard the note of the Redwing and the Bramble-finch. High over head the Rough-legged Buzzard sails in wide majestic circles.

I was hatched in a charming little nest made of grasses, felted with reindeer-hair, lined with feathers of the Snowy Owl and snugly fixed in a fork of a birch, close up to the trunk. We were a pretty tight fit in that nest, for there were no less than six of us and we kept one another so warm that we hardly needed any brooding. How we grew! You must remember that in the short Arctic summer there is no night and, though our parents used to take forty winks about mid-day and to brood us more closely about mid-night, feeding went on almost without interruption throughout the twenty-four hours. We were never short of food on account of the abundance of birch-buds; that is one reason why Mealy Redpolls are such late breeders. In Devonshire the birch puts forth its buds in the last week in March, but in Lapland there are never any buds until the end of the first week in June and in a late season not till the third week. Then there are Crane-flies and Saw-flies and big, fat Mosquitoes in millions—so big and so fat that the Shore-larks will often bring up their broods on these alone.

Our nearest neighbours were a colony of Red-wings but they were very quiet peaceable birds, quite unlike the Fieldfares who are most quarrelsome and squabble and chatter all night long. On the opposite side of the lake there was a small encampment of Lapps, who bring their reindeer to the coast from great distances inland in the summer in order to pasture them on the hills or islands where they will not be tormented to death by the mosquitoes. But though the Lapps will shoot every bird that they can eat with their rusty old guns and though their dogs almost keep themselves on eggs in the nesting season, they do not trouble about such small fry as Redpolls, so we went unmolested and, save when the dark shadow of a Hawk-owl or Buzzard passed overhead, we never knew what fear meant.

The weather too on some days was really grand quite as hot as it was last summer in Devon; on other days we would have gales from the bitter north and fogs and rain and hard frosts, which in an hour or two would make most of the flowers apparently wither up. But not for long, as soon as ever the sun shone out again, the *Trollius* would lift its yellow blooms from the frozen ground as vigorously as ever. For Arctic flowers and Arctic birds are alike, children of the Northland and fear not its icy grip.

Soon came the memorable day when we six young Mealies were strong enough to balance ourselves on the edge of our nest and take our first real view of the wide world around us. Next day we were scrambling about among the topmost branches of our birch-tree and before long we could fly as far as the sallows by the lake and watch the Stints pattering about on the ooze and the Scoters dipping and splashing in the cool, clear water. Our parents could not spare time to look after us now, for they were busy with another nest, but we were not short of company for there were numbers of other young Mealies with which we struck up an acquaintance, and, being as cheeky and independent as you please, we much preferred to go our own way. We were not by any means all alike for, while our parents had grey rumps, most of the Redpolls round Lake Ukanskoe had white rumps, and I have since met other races such as the big-beaked Redpolls from Greenland and the small-footed race, which, I have been told, ranges through Siberia and Arctic America, but we consider all Redpolls which have either grey or white rumps, true Mealies, and, as I was able to prove to the Boss last summer, we are very closely related to the brown-rumped Redpolls of Central Europe. Of course we are bigger but that is simply because we belong to the Northland, for let me tell you that the birds which come north every summer to breed at Lake Ukanskoe are the salt of the earth strong as the mountain pine and hardy as Siberian wolves, able to endure cold and hunger and to traverse the great wide barren spaces of the Arctic on untiring wing in fact the little brown-rumped Redpolls would soon starve and die if they came north with us.

As food became scarcer we young Mealies passed southward in large flocks, through Finmark and Nordland and Tronhjem, until we came to the extreme south to Norway and were face to face with the sea once more. Food was plentiful enough here—delicious grass seeds in the upland meadows and alders and flowering rushes and sedges in the low-lying valleys—but still we were restless and ever on the move. The cause of this was that day after day and all day long great flights of Larks and Pipits and Bramblings and Waders passed overhead; there would be a swish of wings and, like a flash, they would be gone, heading for the south-west and the open sea. Day by day we became more and more excited, and at last we simply burned with curiosity to know what it was that they were seeking beyond that mysterious and vast expanse of water.

I cannot quite tell you how it happened because it all happened so quickly. One day we were particularly restless and towards evening one of our leaders seemed to go suddenly mad; he went whirling up into the sky, screaming to us to follow him, and instantly we all seemed to go mad too, and before we had time to think, we were off like a cloud of leaves driven before a gale. I had never flown so fast before and I do not believe I shall ever fly so fast again. Soon the moon rose in a cloudless sky and by its light we could see land a long way off to the east of us—I think it must have been the coast of Denmark. But it was westward we wanted to go—the way the other migrants were going, for the sky was full of birds and we could hear the piping of Larks and the whistling of Waders all round us. Never shall I forget that beautiful night. Hour after hour we flew but we were far too excited to feel tired. At last the sun rose; beneath us lay a fishing fleet and far ahead of us we saw a low sandy coast and harbour, where hundreds of fishing smacks lay anchored in rows. It smelled of fish like Vardoe, but was much larger and I know now that it was Great Yarmouth. As we neared the coast we dropped lower and lower and at last pitched among the sand-grass on the dunes. We had arrived!

And now occurred an event which changed the whole course of my life. We had been born and bred in one of the most remote corners of Europe and naturally of the wide world—its sorrows and snares, its bird-catchers and bird-cages—we knew absolutely nothing, though, like other very ignorant people, we thought we knew everything. When therefore we saw a pair of clap-nets with some very inviting looking seed and a few call-birds we never paused to consider the object of the device but pitched right in the middle of the nets and in a single instant we were prisoners. Then came a tiring journey in a small, dark and evil-smelling box and at last we found ourselves in a large cage in a kitchen. Someone looked at us rather dubiously and said: " I wonder, cook, whether these birds ought to have seed or soft-food?" " Goodness gracious me, Mary," replied the other person rather snappishly, " how should I know? Give them a little of each for luck,"—and a little of each we had.

To be continued.

Some Colony Birds.

Compiled by W. T. Page, F.Z.S., from an article by the Rev. Chas. B. Dawson. J.S., M.A., in " TIMEHRI " (The Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana), with compliments and thanks to the Author and Editors.

(*Continued from page* 118).

The writer informs us that twenty-six species of Humming Birds are indigenous to the colony and give fairly lengthy descriptions of the following two species, from which I make these brief extracts.

White-throated Humming-bird (*Agytria leucogaster*).

"I had been but a few months in Demerara, when one of the "boys brought me a tiny Humming-bird, slightly damaged in the "wing. All my zoological instincts were aroused at the touch of "this tiniest and most wonderful of Nature's handiwork in the "shape of a bird. It was a White-throated Emerald (*A. leucogaster*) which is common enough in Georgetown. . . . . . "I hardly expected to keep my little stranger alive; but I extemporized a cage: a chalk box fitted with miniature perches "and surmounted with a piece of perforated zinc in the shape "of a gable...It soon banished all fear...This bird with the soul "of an insect, as someone has aptly described it—and when I "presented a little syrup made of brown sugar and water, the "tiny creature put out its forked tongue and drank with avidity. "So it lived for several weeks and by then was able to make "short flights about the room. But it always required me to put "its bill into the narrow tube containing the syrup, before it "drank. It had not the sense to help itself. One day when I "was busy with my mail letters it took a higher flight than "usual, and disappeared through the open window, and I saw it no "more . . . . . . There is no flapping of the wings in the "Humming-bird. It whirls them rapidly round like a school-boy "doing arm exercise; but, of course, with lightning speed . . . . "Its manner of flight is like that of a dragon-fly, and its utility "is two-fold. The first is obvious: it enables the bird to extract "the nectar from delicate flowers with the least trouble to "itself, and without detriment to them. I discovered the second "as I was being rowed, early one morning, along the bank "of Mazaruni River. A cloud of mosquitoes were dancing in a "patch of light that streamed through the foliage of the mangrove, "and in the midst was a Humming-bird taking its breakfast at "leisure. A Swallow, be it observed, would have been obliged "to fly backwards and forwards through the cloud of insects and "might eventually have dispersed it . . . . but my humming "friend slowly mounted his airy stair and picked off his tiny "victims as he chose. Needless to say, the body of the bird, like "that of an insect, remains stationary at will, despite the rapid "motion of the wings. It is well known now that small insects "form the staple food of Humming-birds, so that in captivity it "is necessary to supply an equivalent food; and this may be done "in the form of white-of-egg."

JACOBIN HUMMING BIRD (*Florisuga mellivora*). This species Mr. Dawson acquired by simply picking it up. It had temporarily disabled itself by dashing through one open window against another. It is a gorgeous species flashing like a jewel in the light. Head and breast ultramarine-blue; body and wing coverts metallic green; flights dull black; vent and tail white, the latter having narrow black tips; at the base of the neck (only visible when neck is stretched), there is a crescentric patch of white.

> " I placed his little box at one corner of my large cage, " and there he would remain content on his tiny perch until I " went periodically to feed him. This I did by putting the tip " of his long bill into the glass containing the syrup. It was " some weeks before he learned to feed himself. I also gave him " exercise by holding him slightly by the point of the bill, when " he would 'hum' in a charming manner. He came to an un- " timely end . . . . . After meals he would clean his long " tongue by drawing it in and out of his bill like a sword from " its sheath; the tongue is forked and hollow, and he, unfortunately, " picked up some grains of sand on the tip of it. I washed it " as well as I could, but several grains got inside the tongue, " and whenever he drank his syrup these grains sucked up into " his throat, and eventually choked him."

THE BLUE TANAGER (*Tanagra episcopus*): This species is well known to English aviculture, being introduced by our member Mr. E. W. Harper, and a pair which he sent me, have lived in my outdoor aviary since 1905. Mr. Dawson tells us that it is one of the most common and yet most striking birds of the colony.

> " The bold, strong flight of this bird is striking; one sees " a flash of blue and hears a cheerily drawn-out note of greeting: " 'Well! Well! Well! Here we are'! . . . . The Blue Sacki " is a lively bird flying continually from perch to perch, and " making itself completely at home, in a short time. It is dis- " tinctly a town bird, loving to be in the proximity of human " habitations, but retires to quiet places for nesting purposes. It " feeds on fruit, as all Tanagers do, and occasionally insects. No " aviary can be quite complete without a pair of these good-man- " nered, peaceable, and if I may say so, lady-like creatures. But " I have never seen them exhibit any particular mark of intelli- " gence."

Our member, Dr. J. Easton Scott, bred this species last year in his Surrey aviary, one young bird being fully reared. It still lives; a female and is engaged in incubation duties at the present time. Its demeanour and characteristics in the aviary is about as described by Mr. Dawson. (See coloured plate in Vol. VI. *Bird Notes*).

PALM TANAGER (*T. palmarum*). Another species well known to English aviculture, but it has not yet been bred, though success has been nearly attained, for our member, Lady

Edith Douglas Pennant, had two reared to be fully fledged in 1911, and one already this season, but in neither case did the young live to be independent of their parents.

> " First cousin to the Blue is the Palm Sacki (*T. palmarum*). " This in shape and habit is almost identical with the Blue Sacki, " but is in no wise so striking a bird, it is distinctly a 'poor " relation.' In colour it is generally a dull sage or earth-green, " with very dark, almost black primaries. It varies considerably, " both in size and colour, and one I have is a light purplish-blue, " almost like a Blue Sacki; but its feathers have not the soft " wool-like appearance. Like its more refined cousin, it frequents " towns and will often make a tour of inspection within houses " and other buildings. Its note is louder; it is a cry of surprise, " as if it were saying: 'Oh! What is all this fuss about'? But " it has no song. Like its cousin, it is also a lively cage bird " making full use of the place at its disposal, and often springing " in a dancing kind of way upon the perch."

MAROON TANAGER (*Rhamphocœlus jacapa*). A beautiful bird, well known to English exhibitors, and aviculturists, to whom it was introduced by our member Mr. E. W. Harper. A hen of this species has lived five years in my aviary, out-of-doors the whole period. It has not been bred in Great Britain.

> " This bird is fairly common in the town, and hides behind " the palm leaves . . . . . . I suppose the reason why it is " never seen in a cage is because it has no song. Someone " sent me a specimen. . . . . . . He soon made himself at " home in the cage, and showed decided intelligence in the way " he imitated the other occupants, taking food and water, and a " bath, and sometimes in his good humour, poking the other birds " with his bill. It was amusing to see the look of dignified sur- " prise with which the Blue Sacki received this token of goodwill. " He opened his uplifted bill as if he would acclaim, 'Well, I " never!,' but was too gentlemanly to return the familiar onslaught."

It is known locally as the Cashew Sacki, and was figured in colour in *Bird Notes,* Vol. VI.

BLACK-FACED TANAGER (*Calliste cayana*). Another beautiful species, also introduced to English aviculture by Mr. E. W. Harper, the first imported specimen of which came into my possession, and was figured in colour in *Bird Notes*, Vol. VII. Its local or vulgar name -Bucktown Sacki—is derived from the fact that it is common in buck-Indian villages.

> " It is a pretty bird of more than average intelligence, and " makes an admirable cage-bird. It has a single, sweet song."

The female is simply a washed-out resemblance of the male and in adult birds the two can never be confounded together. There are at the present timeseveral specimens in the "Small Birds' House" of the London Zoo.

OLIVE-GREEN SALTATOR (*Saltator magnus*): I think I am right in saying too, that Mr. E. W. Harper sent the first pair of this species, to reach England alive to the London Zoo. The Saltator is to all intents and purposes a large Tanager (is as large as a thrush), but at a little distance bears a strong resemblance to a thrush and may easily be mistaken for such. On more than one occasion at the London Zoo I have been so misled, the somewhat indistinct striation of the underparts lending to the deception, but directly a full view is obtained of the bird the error is immediately evident.

> "Commonly known as 'Tom Pitcher,' on account of a "fancied resemblance of its note to the name. . . . . To me, "the bird seems to say: 'Sweet, sweet Brickdam, yo' know.' "It is the largest of the group and much larger than all "the preceding Tanagers; the bill is short and blunt, giving the "bird somewhat of a chubby look: the tail proportionately longer. "Its colour above is olive-green; below it is lightish-grey, with "undefined downward streaks of a darker colour; it has a bright "yellow eye-brow and a corresponding mark below the eye. . . . "A young specimen which had fallen out of the nest was brought "to me. I fed the youngster forcibly for twelve days on bread "and milk, and banana, and at last the bird realized that it was "much more pleasant to open its bill when I presented the food, "than wait till I had gently but firmly prised it open. . . . . "It does much damage to gardens by nipping off succulent buds. "In a cage it seems to take life with a stolid, tolerant, selfish, "and sometimes querulous indifference, and so will never be taken "up as a pet."

I must leave the other birds Mr. Dawson deals with —Hangnests, Marshbirds, Tyrants, and Seed-Finches—till our next issue. I am sure the above notes, both of the well-known and almost unknown (in captivity) species will prove of general interest and fully justify the space occupied.

(*To be Continued*).

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(Continued from page 102).

H. alba. GREAT WHITE EGRET.

Range. South Europe to Central Asia; India; Burmah; Africa. *(H.L)*.

H. garzetta. LITTLE EGRET.

Range. South Europe to Central Asia; India; China; Japan; Malaya; Africa. *(H.L)*.

These two widely spread species are both common in the Gambia. In both the entire plumage is snow-white and both develop the characteristic egret ornamental plumes during the breeding season, though those of the smaller species are neither very long nor abundant. The main difference between them is one of size, *alba* being about a foot longer than *garzetta*, the latter measuring some 28, the former 38, inches in length; in the beak also there is a difference, as this is wholly black in the Little Egret; yellow with black tip and edges in the larger bird.

These Egrets were in former years shot by a few native hunters, but never to any great extent, as there never seemed to be any great demand for their plumes, which at their best cannot compared at all with those obtained from other non-African species. Now that they are protected by law, both in British and French territory, during the breeding season very little if anything is done in that line, and one now very rarely even sees an odd bunch or two of plumes offered for sale.

The Great White Egret is a more solitary bird and more confined to the actual river than the Little Egret. One commonly sees the former, singly or in pairs, either wading in the shallows near the banks or especially on those at the tail of the numerous islands along the river, or else sitting motionless on some branch over the water, to rise silently and fly off with out-stretched neck and trailing legs on the approach of a boat, less frequently an odd one or two may be found feeding on some swamp or inland pool. The Little Egret on the other hand is met with usually in small or large parties, and besides frequenting such places as the river-side, swamps and pools, is also to be found on the dry rice-fields and even far from water on the old corn-lands; they also often join the Cattle-Egrets in their attendance on grazing herds and at a bush-fire share with them and many other birds the feast of insect-life driven up or killed by the flames. Here the Egrets frequently get quite blackened by the soot from the burnt grass, as they run to and fro behind the line of fire or just in front of it in places where it is advancing slowly and without much flame over a patch of thin grass. Their food consists of fish, crustacea, frogs, lizards, and other reptiles, as well as insects, both large and small, though probably the diet of the larger species is as a rule more restricted to the larger, more fishy and reptilian of the items in this menu.

I have never seen the nest of the Little Egret but the larger breed in trees, making flat nests of sticks, two or three pairs to a tree, most frequently in this country in or close to a native village. A particularly large nesting colony is at Toniataba on the South Bank, where these Egrets share some half dozen trees with a crowd of the noisy black Buffalo Weavers. During the breeding season they spend the night of course at their nests, but for the rest of the year both species although they pass the day widely scattered over the country, unite in large flocks to roost in company at night. Both species too frequent the brackish mangrove swamps of the lower river and its estuary, as well as the sweet-water ones higher up.

Their nightly roosting places these two Egrets share with the Buff-backed species, enormous flocks consisting of these three species occupying large trees overhanging the water along the river, and every evening about sundown they may be seen converging on their sleeping quarters, arriving in flocks of varying sizes from up and down stream, flying straight and silently a little way above the water-level. Such a roosting place goes on from year to year, and during the day shows up at a little distance as a whitened patch against the dark green foliage, owing to the quantity of the birds' excrement which coats the lower leaves and branches. At daylight or just before dark, when all its occupants are present, such a spot looks from a distance as if it was covered with a huge white sheet, which may break up as the boat gets closer or a gun is fired into a cloud of screaming birds, rising with much noise and wing-flapping, and expressing their disgust at being disturbed with clamour and croaking cries; the commotion however does not last long for they soon settle down again in their accustomed places directly the cause of the disturbance passes on.

Native names are "Harikoio" in Mandingo, "Khorda" and "Toitoi" in Joloff, the last name however, applying to the Little Egret only.

Ardea ardesiaca. BLACK HERON.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

A small Heron (17 inches) slaty-black in colour and having black beak and legs. The small Black Heron which is so common along the lower river and the mangrove-creeks, I take to be this species, though I have never actually been able to make certain.

A. gularis. SLATY EGRET.

Range. Tropical Africa. Madagascar. (*H.L*).

Also common in the Gambia. It is nearly wholly black or a very dark grey when out of colour, but in the breeding season the male develops clear slate-blue ornamental plumes and white cheeks and throat. Bill yellow, legs black with yellowish toes. Length, 21 inches.

A. melanocephala. BLACK-NECKED HERON.

Range. Tropical Africa. Mediterranean countries occasionally. (*H.L.*)

This bird takes the same place in the Gambian landscape as the Common Heron does at home. On almost any swamp, where pools are left, one or a pair may be seen standing like statues for hours together, knee-deep in the water, with not a movement except a very occasional slow straightening of the neck to get a closer look at something which has attracted their attention, but when they spot their prey, all is changed—down goes the dagger-beak with a downward stab and sudden dart of the snaky neck. In shape and general colouration they also resemble the European Heron, except that they are rather smaller and slightly slimmer birds and have much more black about their plumage, that is on the head, neck, wings, and tail. The grey, too, of the other parts is perhaps of rather a bluer shade.

A. cinerea. COMMON HERON.

Range. Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia. (*H.L*).

This, the common Heron of Europe, I think, also occurs here, at any rate, I frequently see birds which appear to exactly resemble those one sees at home and to have much lighter heads and generally much less black about their plumage than has the last species, which is by far the commoner of the two here.

There are several native names for the different Herons, Turolelengo, Sarkulà and Jebungo in Mandingo, Khod'u jan, Reg and Tarakh in Joloff. Of these the first named in each language strictly applies only to the Black-necked Heron, Sarkulà to several of the smaller species, Jèbungo to the large Goliath Heron only, while the two remaining names (Joloff) are used loosely for almost any member of the family.

A. goliath. GOLIATH HERON.

Range. Tropical Africa. India occasionally. (*H.L.*)

This large handsome Heron is not at all uncommon along the river, especially among the mangroves near its mouth, where its size and bright red brown under surface always draw one's attention, while on the wing it looks even bigger still. It's general colour above is grey, below red brown; length, 53 inches.

Pyrrherodias purpurea. PURPLE HERON.

Range. Europe to Central Asia. Africa and Madagascar (*H.L.*).

A much smaller bird than the last, being only some 35 inches long, but like that species it also has a red brown under surface. The iris is yellow. the bill yellow shading into brown towards the base and the legs olive-brown. The only Purple Heron I have ever seen in this country was one which was caught at McCarthy Island and was kept for some time in captivity in Bathurst. This Bird got fairly tame but was always rather a risky beast to approach owing to the reckless way in which it used its dangerous beak, for without any warning it would make a dab at one's hands or face, either in the hopes of getting a bit of fish or a dead rat or as a mere means of offence.

Butorides atricapilla. BLACK CAPPED BITTERN.

Range. Tropical Africa. Madagascar. (*H.L.*)

This little Heron is quite common but not so often seen as some of the other species, as it is a most retiring bird and haunts the innermost recesses and least frequented creeks of the mangrove-swamps, or, higher up the river, pools and marshy patches surrounded by dense bush.

Above it is glossy greenish black from the crown (which bears a drooping crest) to the lower back, below white mottled with reddish brown, the rest of the plumage being grey. Iris yellow, beak and legs dirty yellow. Length 16 inches. In the young there is very little of the glossy green on the upper parts, but both above and below most of the feathers are edged with brown. It's Mandingo name is Kaung-a.

Nycticorax nycticorax. NIGHT-HERON.

Range. Central and South Europe to India, China and Japan, Malaya, etc., Africa, America. (*H.L.*)

N. leuconotus.

Range. Tropical Africa.

These two Night-Herons should from their known ranges occur in the Gambia, but I as yet know neither.

Ardeola ralloides. SQUACCO HERON.

Range. South Europe to the Caspian. Africa. Madagascar.

This bird, which seems to rather court observation than to shun it, is common along the coast and up the river as far as the mangroves reach, among the roots of which one sees it moving sedately about over the mud with an occasional short run forward after anything edible it may see.

Ardetta payesi. RED-NECKED LITTLE BITTERN.

A. sturmi. AFRICAN LITTLE BITTERN.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L*).

Both these species I believe occur in the Gambia. One occasionally sees among the dense reed-beds and matted growth of the piassava swamps, which border large stretches of the river above the mangrove belt, small herons dodging about the tangled stems and roots. It is usually only a momentary glimpse that one catches, as they are adepts at hiding themselves and hardly ever trust themselves to their wings. These I am sure are Little Bitterns, of one or other of these two species.

(*To be Continued*)

The Diamond Finch.

(*Steganopleua guttata.*)

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

It is fully ten years since specimens of this fine species occupied my aviaries, and though, we have received what may be the last consignment of Australian Finches, including some pairs of *S. guttata*, a recalling of some of my experiences with the species may not be out of place here, as well as helping to fill a gap in the Magazine at a period, when "copy" is a trifle slack.

While not so rainbow hued as many of Australia's gloriously beautiful avifauna, the Diamond Finch is certainly a "feathered exquisite," though a robust one and would grace any company however gorgeous or regal their robes might be.

The sexes as regards plumage are practically alike, but the base of the upper mandible of the female is pink, that of the male being crimson and the crown of his head is a little broader than that of his mate.

It is a widely distributed species, and extends over South Australia to New South Wales, and northwards to the Wide Bay district.

The adult male is greyish-brown above, much greyer on the head; rump and upper tail-coverts fiery crimson-scarlet (richest of carmine—reds); tail deep black; under surface pure white, sides of body black, thickly spotted with sharply defined white spots, a broad band of black crosses the chest and meets the black area on sides of body; beak crimson; legs and feet grey.

The natural nest is constructed of fine grasses, of a spherical form with a side entrance, and is usually placed in a gum or apple tree; and sometimes amid the sticks forming the base of an Eagle's nest. Its natural food consists of the seed of indigenous grasses and other weeds and undoubtedly many insects, for in captivity it is a species that fully appreciates the toothsome mealworm—the last of the young birds reared in my aviary died at the age of eight years and for the last four of these it came to my hand when I entered the aviary either with live-bait tin or seeding grasses.

I have never had a nest constructed in tree or bush in my aviary, a box has always been chosen and a spherical nest constructed therein, they have also used wire baskets (flower pot holders), and the Hartz travelling-cage as sites for the nest. The incubation period has been (counting from the laying of the last egg of the clutch) thirteen days; but these birds are not ideal sitters or feeders, and but few young are fully reared, in comparison with the number of eggs laid or chicks hatched, yet the number of infertile eggs has been smaller than with any species I have kept—in one respect they resemble the Red-headed Finch (*Amadina erythrocephala*), that is the number of chicks dead in shell.

In my aviary they ate heartily of canary, white millet, spray millet, paddy rice, oats, and sunflower seeds, the three first being taken in greatest quantity. They took but little of the insectile mixture, and were not very keen on preserved ants' "eggs," but were always on hand for live bait—mealworms, gentles, wasps' grubs or smooth caterpillars—and greenfood, especially seeding grasses, and other weeds and on the above the young were reared—fifteen from as many as ten nests covering a period of four years, 1891 to 1895.

It is not a dumb species, but they have no song, and their call-note is very plaintive—some find it unpleasing, but my untrained ear has not found it so. It certainly is an interesting as well as a beautiful species—its love dance, if ludicrous, as it certainly is to the human eye, is intensely interesting, as is their whole demeanour, and there is no bird, however brilliant it may be, that attracts more attention from visitors than the Diamond or Spotted-sided Finch, and personally I am of the opinion that it merits all the attention it receives.

Might I urge upon all my readers who possess this species, to give it every chance of reproducing its kind, by giving it plenty of room and not interfering with them in any way—undue curiosity, etc. (What tales—not complimentary—would be told of their owners if this and other species only spoke the English language). Also by exchanging the progeny with other successful breeders. (Space in "B.N." will be given for this purpose), that there may be no inbreeding, and the species, secured to English aviculture, if not permanently, for as long a period as possible—I would also urge that the same procedure be adopted with all species of Australian Finches.

I have not found the Diamond Finch troublesome or pugnacious in a mixed series, on the other hand he is beautiful, with many interesting traits to me when I kept him he was a first favourite and regular centre of interest. Look after himself he certainly does, and drive away all intruders from the precincts of his little castle, the fortress of the coming sons and daughters, he does in no half-hearted fashion, but, for both of these traits I certainly do not blame him, and, I hope he will long remain an object of interest and beauty in many English aviaries.

Book Notices and Reviews.

UPPINGHAM SCHOOL NATURAL SCIENCE REPORT: 1911.—The Rev. W. J. Constable has favoured us with a copy of this report. Interest in Natural History is evediently more than maintained, and the report contains many interesting items; such as:

" WHITETHROAT (*Sylvia rufa*): Not nearly so numerous as in previous " years; nest and five eggs, near Uppingham, May 17th. F.R.; nest and two " eggs, May 25th. Stockerston, Coleman; nest and four young, Glaston, " May 27th. C.E.W."

" GREEN WOODPECKER (*Gecinus viridis*); common; on account of the " difficulty of inspecting nests without destroying it, only one lot of eggs " were recorded, six eggs, Glaston, May 27th. T. R.: seen daily, Stoke Dry, " G.T.

" LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*); has now become very common; fre- " quently seen; there were as many as fifteen observations of nests. These " included thirty-one eggs and fourteen young."

The following reprinted from the " Field" Feb. 17, 1912., will probably interest many readers and not be out of place in connection with the report·

" HABITS OF THE LITTLE OWL.—As many of your readers are probab- " ly aware, the late Lord Lilford released numbers of the Little Owl for a " succession of years from his aviaries at Lilford. The result has been, so " far as the neighbourhood of Uppingham is concerned, that this bird has " become gradually naturalised, and is now, comparative speaking common. " Records of the birds of this neighbourhood are publishised annually by " the ornithological section of the Uppingham School N.S.S., and I am able " to give the history of the gradual naturalisation of this Little Owl. It " began to be reported as an occasional visitor in 1895, and from that year " onward the number of observations has gradually increased until in 1905 " it is described as " not uncommon." In 1909 it has become " common, " frequently seen and heard." Last year in fifteen expeditions of the " society it was seen at least once on every occasion, and sometimes six or " seven were seen in the course of the afternoon: nests and eggs were fre- " quently found. The actual number of observations sent in was fifteen, " and these included thirty-one eggs and fourteen young. It is now more " frequently seen than any kind of owl, and may be heard on the outskirts " of the town almost every night of the year. The nesting holes and "larders have been carefully examined in a great many instances, and if "we had only the evidence of the remains found there little objection "could be taken to the Litlle Owl. Its food consists of beetles and "other insects and mice We found remains of some, but very few, small "birds, tits and wrens, &c., occasionly a young thrush or blackbird, once a "water rat, but never any game. Keepers round about assert that they "take both young partridges and pheasants, but we have found no evi-"dence to support the statement. But it so happens that the increased "observation of the Little Owl coincides with a gradual but marked de-"crease in the numbers of small birds which were at one time common "in the neighbouahood—whitethroats, warblers, chiff-chaffs, willow-wrens, "and birds of this type. Even finches appear to be diminishing. At one "time I ascribed this growing scarcity of small birds to activity of the "County Councils in insisting on the trimming of the roadside hedges and "to the disturbance caused by the noise and dust of motor-cars. These "two causes combined would account for the dearth of small birds on the "high roads, but not in the country lanes, the edges of woods, the gorze "patches, and the hedges in the fields, where the scarcity is quite as notice-"able. The Little Owl is diurnal as well as nocturnal in its habits, and "the mischief arises from its hunting by day. The small birds must be "continually disturbed and alarmed by its almost ceaseless activity. Is it "not natural that they should be driven further afield, especially in the "breeding season, when they instinctively try to find quiet nesting-places? "Up to this year our society has been careful to protect the Little Owl, "and to encourage it in every way possible to become acclimatised. I "wonder if it would not be wiser to exterminate it.—W. J. CONSTABLE." (Uppingham).

HAND-LIST OF BRITISH BIRDS: Messrs. Witherby are publishing the above, giving a detailed account of the distribution of each bird in the British Isles, and a general account of its range abroad, together with details of the occurences of rarities. The Hand-list is the joint work of Messrs. E. Hartert, F. C. R. Jourdain, N. F. Ticehurst, and H. F. Witherby. *See prospectus in this issue.*

THE FLIGHT OF BIRDS: By F. W. Headley, author of "The Structure and Life of Birds"—with 16 plates (photo-reproductions) and many text figures. Crown 8vo. 5s. net. London: Witherby and Co., 326, High Holborn, W.C.

This work is certainly what is claimed for it, "a clear exposition of a fascinating subject," and is clearly and intelligibly written. The flight of all types of birds is described at all stages and the text is fully illustrated by many striking photographs. The flight of birds is contrasted with that of areoplanes. The following tables of chapter headings and plates indicate the comprehensive character of this interesting book on a fascinating subject.

CHAPTER HEADINGS: Gliding—Stability—Motive Power—Starting—Steering—Stopping and Alighting—Machinery of Flight—Varieties of Wing and of Flight—Pace and Last—Wind and Flight—Some Accessories.

PLATES: Eagles Soaring—Pigeons and Gulls, showing right and left wings, giving different strokes—Pigeon using tail for maintenance of flight, Pigeon Gliding and Gulls gliding—Pigeons showing phases of the wing-stroke in series—Gulls Flying—Pigeons Starting Flight, Pigeon Rising, Herring Gulls Starting—Pigeons and Gulls, showing methods of steering—Pigeons alighting and checking speed—Photos of wing, flight, and tail-feathers.—Photos of different types of wings—Photos of Gulls with motionless wings following steamer.

To all interested in birds we cordially commend this interesting and lucidly written book. *See prospectus in this issue.*

REPORT OF THE GIZA ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, 1911: This report is very comprehensive, giving full and interesting, and comparative statistics, which ably demonstrate the progress made and the thoroughness of the organization. The year 1911 was a record one as to numbers, and the death rate lower than at any previous period. The birds numbered 988 at the annual stock-taking and are a comprehensive series. Breeding results among the birds were not many but the year was not favourable—wind, sand and dust storms, also earthquake shocks, and very many natural enemies abound as well. We note two Black-cheeked Lovebirds, and a Java Sparrow were reared, while Senegal Stone Curlews and Buff-backed Herons hatched out but did not rear their young.

Some beautiful photo-reproductions materially add to the interest of the report.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: The season promises to be a very early one and a good start has been made in many aviaries.

Lady Edith Douglas Pennant has had a young Palm Tanager (*T. palmarum*) hatched out in her aviary, which lived for ten days, it was then a very fat, well developed youngster, and nearly fledged, but, it was found dead on the ground at some distance from the nest, evidently having been fetched out by some other bird. A separate Tanager aviary has now been arranged, and the Palm Tanagers are nesting again. Her cross-mated White, and Black-backed Crows have again nested and laid a clutch of three eggs, but, as last year, the eggs were infertile.

In Mr. Shore-Baily's aviaries, Alexandra Parrakeets; Rosella x Mealy Rosella Parrakeets; two pairs Black-cheeked Lovebirds; Violet, Crested, and Brush Bronze-wing Doves are busily engaged incubating clutches of eggs.

In my own aviaries Bronze Mannikins have reared young: Cutthroats, Cutthroat x Java Sparrow, Californian Quail, and Grey-winged Ouzels are incubating, and a pair of Yellow-wing Sugarbirds, which have been out of doors for the past three weeks, are looking extremely well, in spite of cold nights and frost; the cock has been observed with a piece of fine grass in his bill, intimating that an attempt at any rate is likely to be made at setting up housekeeping.

In Mr. Suggitt's aviaries, Grey-winged Ouzels, White-crowned Pigeons, Peaceful Doves, Magpie Mannikins, Long-tailed Grassfinches, Zebra Finches, etc., are incubating.

Mr. Herbert Bright, in his Liverpool aviaries, has Budgerigars, Cockateels, Diamond Doves, Diamond Finches, Green Cardinals, Red-crested Cardinals, Masked Doves, Silver-bills, and Zebra Finches—some of them building; others incubating.

Mr. Willford has among others Black Tanagers, Black-headed Sibias, and three pairs of Grey-winged Ouzels incubating—also many rare Pheasant chicks hatched.

Mr. A. Sutcliffe has in his Grimsby aviaries, Californian Quail, Golden Pheasants, Double-banded and several other species of Australian Finches engaged in the duties of incubation, as well as several species of Pigeons.

We hope more members will send in brief notes of the doings and attempts in their aviaries—the utility and interest of our Journal will be much marred if only rare and uncommon species are to be noted. Such brief notes as those given above, will not mar any article on the "Season's Results," which may be written later. We solicit post cards giving such details.

Mixed Series: Considerable interest attaches as to what may be kept together, so we propose quoting from time to time from such letters on this topic, as may come to hand—readers must particularly note size of cage or aviary and any other qualifying details given, also, *whatever may have been done by others in this respect, all mixed series should be kept under closest observation, until the demeanour of the respective species is ascertained, and for some time after introducing fresh individuals.*

Mr. W. Smith, of Redruth, Cornwall, has in his out-door aviary (30 x 20ft., with an outer flight 20 x 12ft.), about forty large birds, such as Lemon-crested, Leadbeater's, and other Cockatoos; Rosella, King and other Parrakeets; a dozen Cockateels, about 50 Budgerigars, and about three dozen various small Foreigners. Truly a marvellous series to dwell together in amity as has been the case, but it is not surprising that breeding results have been small.

Miss A. B. Smyth, of Catford, has in a large cage (some 6ft. long), in her in-door bird-room, had living together in amity for some months, Blue and Marsh Tits and several species of Waxbills.

BABBLERS: Many of these are most interesting birds to keep, and in *Bird Notes*, Vol. VII., we figured two species, the Rusty-cheeked and Slaty Babblers. Though we are not likely to obtain the Australian species, referred to below, yet the notes, we opine, will be of general interest as the genus *Pomatorhinus* has a fairly large range and species are likely to come to hand from India. For this cutting we are indebted to Mr. F. Howe, who has taken it from the "New Zealand Herald."

> "The fact that some birds display human traits to a sur-
> " prising degree is commented upon by Mr. H. G. Jarman, of
> " Broken Hill, New South Wales, a former resident of this Dominion.
> " As an illustration of this he brings forth the Jumping Jack, or
> " Chatterer (*Pomatorhinus ruficeps*), of the interior of Australia.
> " These birds haunt stunted trees that grow along the dry water-
> " courses. They associate in companies, numbering from six to
> " twelve, and spend much of their time on the ground. When
> " they are distributed they walk away with a strange jerky motion
> " half jumping and half hopping, with drooping wings and erect
> " tail, chattering vigorously all the time. With a succession of
> " clumsy jumps they climb a small tree. After reaching the top
> " they make a short, blurred flight to the bottom of another
> " tree. They repeat the performance if they are followed, jump-
> " ing, fluttering, and scolding in a very amusing way. They are
> " nearly always on the hop, but at rare intervals when they rest,
> " the body is crouched close to the branch, slanting from the head
> " upwards to the tail. When Mr. Jarman first made the acquaint-
> " ance of the Jumping Jack, in the spring of 1910, he was
> " puzzled at the discovery of no fewer than five nests in one
> " small tree. All of them had been recently built, but only one
> " was occupied. The others remained unoccupied during the season.
> " He did not know at the time that, when spring approaches, these
> " strange birds are seized with a mania for building nests. Work-
> " ing in company they make nest after nest, without any attempt
> " at concealment, until they have quite five times as many nests

“as they need. Each pair then chooses the nest that pleases them “best, and all settle down to their household duties.”

“These strange habits of course, have arrested attention, “and theories have been put forth to account for them. Mr. “Hall, in “Useful Birds of Southern Australia,” suggests that this “prodigality in nest-making provides protection from prying animals. It is suggested that an enemy, after having searched several “nests without finding anything worth taking, would abandon the “search before it reached an occupied nest. The structure is oval “in shape. It is composed of short twigs strongly interlaced, and “has a side entrance. On the whole it resembles the nest of the “common House Sparrow. The space inside is comparatively small “and is deeply lined with soft grasses and feathers. Usually the “eggs are buried deep beneath a mass of loose feathers. The “eggs number from four to five. They have a distinctive marking. The ground colour is pale brown, and over that there “are blackish streaks resembling cobweb. This skin or web is “not ingrained, but is merely on the surface, and may be removed with water.” The egg's length is .95in. and its breadth .7in.”

Sunbirds: By the kindness of Mrs. K. Leslie Miller a female Amethyst-rumped Sunbird has come into my possession, and I have had the opportunity of studying it, first in a roomy flight and since in a large cage. The Sunbirds have often been described as Spider-hunters (the meaning of their generic name), by naturalists and others who have been privileged to study them in their native haunts. How appropriate this name is I can now fully understand—the above specimen spent every moment of the “live-long” day searching every nook and cranny of the flight for spiders, etc., being more often wrong side up, than in the normal position. Later when she was in a cage, I took her several spiders as large as marrow peas with legs in proportion—it was a revelation to see how these were pounced upon and gulped down, if a leg or two was dropped in the process these were at once picked up and swallowed. On another occasion in my green-house was a cluster of young garden spiders (*Epeira diadema*), pin-head size. I took a handful (quite fifty) and put them through the top of her cage, the majority of them hung from a thread from top of cage, but a few dropped on to the cage bottom, and the little Sprite was intelligent enough to understand that these stood a chance of hiding under the blotting-paper covering cage tray, and she quickly gobbled them up, then back to the perches—a marvel of activity—and snap, snap, snap went her bill (audibly) till not a spider was left and the cage was well searched for strays. After that she settled on the perch and looked at me with a look that was capable of no other interpretation than "more please." The above will demonstrate to what an extent insects figure in the bill of fare of these "wee feathered exquisites" when in their native wilds.

THE POPE CARDINAL (*Paroaria larvata*). Though this species has often reared young to the age of ten days, yet there is no record of their having been reared till they were old enough to fend for themselves. It has been successfully crossed with other Cardinals and the young fully reared, but this does not affect the breeding of the species. Our member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has at the present time, two fine young birds on the wing in his Devonshire aviary and unless any previous authentic case of success can be brought forward he is entitled to the club medal for breeding this species for the first time in Great Britain. If any member knows of any previous instance, will they kindly oblige by sending us full details *at once*.

Correspondence.

THE BLACK-THROATED BUNTING.

Sir.—I mentioned in my recent notes on this species that I lost the one young bird which I kept for the purpose of observing the change of plumage, and I therefore asked our member, Dr. Thwaites into whose hands the other passed, to kindly assist me by observing the moult carefully. The bird died just after the moult, but Dr. Thwaites has been good enough to have it skinned and has forwarded it to me for examination. The taxidermist's label is dated 30th November, 1911, and states that (as I had anticipated) it is a hen. The specimen is in a very interesting phase of plumage, The upper breast and the centre of the lower breast are bright yellow; the throat and abdomen whitish; the flanks now show hardly any trace of striation, and the singular brown moustachial streak (mentioned in my notes) is much less prominent and is apparently disappearing. I said in my notes that this marking had no counterpart in the adult plumage, but oddly enough I recently received two Buntings from a German dealer which he had not identified, but which I feel quite sure are hens of *Spiza Americana* of a slightly different type or race. They are a little smaller and one has distinct moustachial striations.

I cannot find any mention of an allied species in Coues' work on

American birds. He states that the eggs are sometimes lightly pencilled with black, which fact was not included in my notes. My best thanks are due to Dr. Thwaites. W. E. TESCHEMAKER.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

BLUE-WINGED LOVEBIRD (♂). (Frank A. Gillies). There was hæmorrhage on the surface of brain, and around both eyes. No doubt the cause of death was an injury (concussion) to the brain. There was no fracture of the cranium.

BLACK-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCH (♂). (Wm. Shore Baily). There was jaundice and peritonitis, no doubt due to a chill.

(COCKATEEL (♀). (Lady Webster, Battle, Sussex). The cause of death was peritonitis set up by a broken egg that had escaped from a ruptured oviduct and gained the peritoneal cavity. I believe it is common experience that the mortality is very much higher in hen Cockateels than in the cocks.

ADELAIDE PARRAKEET (♂). (Wm. Shore Baily, Westbury, Wilts.) This bird died from bird fever. RED-CRESTED CARDINAL (♀). This also died from bird fever. The lungs as well as the spleen and liver were implicated. It was very fat and had a pendulous abdomen.

BLACK-HEADED GOULDIAN (♀). (R. E. Simpson, Armley, Leeds). Death was due to pneumonia.

SILKY COWBIRD. (S. Clarke, Inces, Scaynes Hill, Haywards Heath). This bird died from bird fever.

GOULDIAN FINCH (♀). (Mrs.Hartley, Hastings). Cause of death, so-called egg-binding. Could have been saved if the cause of the malady had been recognised in time. The exposure to a dry high temperature for some time gives relief. It is less troublesome and more efficaceous than the usual practice of steaming.

GOULDIAN FINCH (♂). (P. Owen, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea). This bird was affected with pneumonia and jaundice.

COCK and HEN GRASS-FINCHES. (Miss Smyth, Catford). These birds had pneumonia and haemorhages in the liver and kidneys.

Answered by Post:—S. Clarke.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

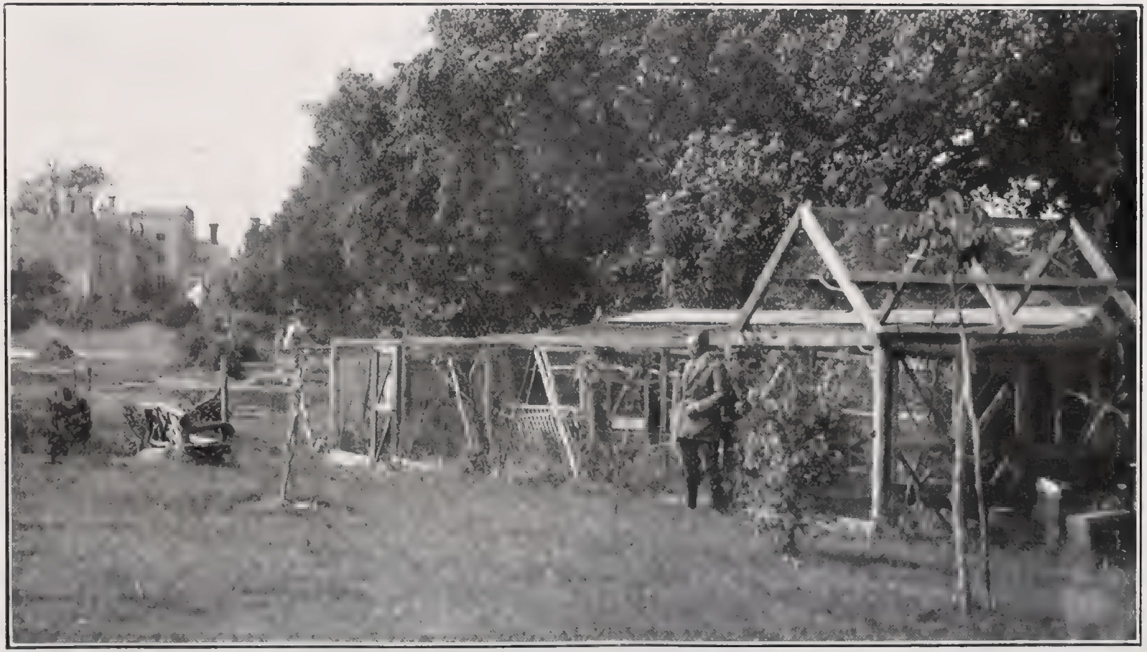

Photo by H. Willford.

Dr. Gosse's Aviaries (Beaulieu, Hants)

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BIRD NOTES:

—THE—

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Aviaries.

By PHILIP GOSSE, M.B.O.U.

Our Editor has asked me, at very short notice, for an account (short history) of my aviaries. But there is so little to tell, and my aviaries, compared with those of most of our members, are but poor things.*

Three years ago, when I first started bird-keeping, I built an open aviary with wire-netting on all sides and a shelter at one corner. In my innocence, I thought that, when rough weather came on the birds would hurry into the shelter until better conditions prevailed. This of course they did not do and often paid the penalty of their folly with their lives.

After this bad start I completely boarded up both ends and back, and covered in rather more than half of the top—as a result the birds did much better. But I was not "out of the wood yet," my next trouble was rats. My aviary being near the bank of an estuary of the Solent (the Beaulieu River), these pests were rather abundant and they used to carry off several birds in a night. To meet this difficulty I sunk some half-inch mesh wire-netting eighteen inches into the ground all round the aviary; I also cemented the whole of the floor of the back half of aviary; since doing this, some three years ago, I have not seen a rat in the aviary.

One of their victims was a Greater Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*), which on the whole was quite the nicest bird I have ever kept. I had only to appear in the garden and he would at once call out and, run about on the wire-netting, waiting for the expected mealworm, of which he was very fond. I have kept several Greater Spotted Woodpeckers and they are most interesting birds to keep. There is one drawback, they do a considerable amount of damage to the woodwork, viz.: hammering it to bits; but even this has a remedy and I found that by placing the half-rotten trunk of a dead tree in the flight, they left the woodwork alone, and spent many and I think happy hours in making the splinters fly with their energetic carpentry.

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* It will be a bad day for "B.N." and for aviculture generally, when only large aviaries are considered worthy of note; very many of our most interesting records and facts have come from those with only moderate sized "ramshackle" aviaries. ("Ramshackle" does not apply to Dr. Gosse's aviaries, but it certainly has to many of my own), and we trust that, comparatively speaking, second rate aviary accommodation will not deter members from recording the episodes that take place therein.—Ed.

I suppose the ultimate object and aim of all aviculturists is to induce and help their birds to successfully breed in the quarters provided. At least it seems to me that the greatest compliment our birds can pay us, for all the trouble we take to make them as nearly "at home," as possible is to reproduce their kind. Personally, I have not had much luck; the only birds I have so far bred, besides the inevitable Cutthroats (*Amadina fasciata*), Zebra Finches (*Tæniopygia castanotis*) and Budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) are:

Blood-rump Parrakeets (*Psephotus hæmatonotus*): Four young of this species left the nest on May 30th, and are doing well.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schœniclus*): These nested and laid a clutch of two eggs, and duly hatched out a couple of chicks, which they did not rear. They placed their nest in a dwarf pine tree.

Quail: Californian (*Lophortyx californicus*), and Rain (*Coturnix coromandelica*) Quails have done fairly well and young have been reared on more than one occasion.

Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*): With this charming, minute, and chastely-coloured species I have not had much luck. At the present time I have seven, which I kept altogether in the largest aviary, but they were continually fighting, which, perhaps, is scarcely surprising, as I think there were but two hens among them. The other day I caught up an obvious pair and put them by themselves, with the result that nest-building was commenced at once, and the hen is now incubating a clutch of two eggs.

In another aviary, not in the photograph, which I had put up this spring for Quails, which is divided into two

Photo by W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

Young Diamond Doves in Nest.

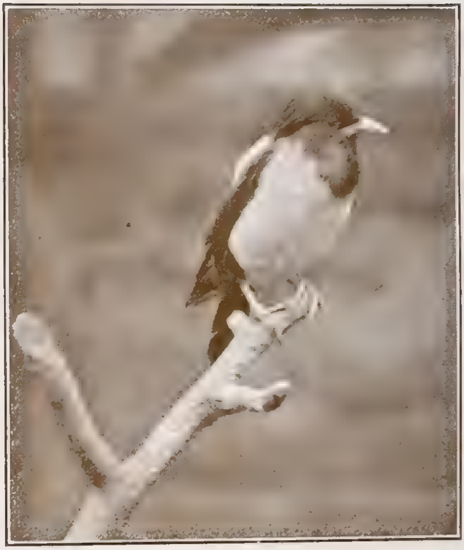

Photo by E. O. Page.

Rosy Pastor (*Pastor roseus*) in thoughtful pose.

enclosures and in one of them I have a pair of Venezuelan Crested Quail. There are several bushes in the run and the grass is about two feet high, but whether they are nesting or not, I cannot say: I have, at last, learned that it is best not to be too inquisitive into the domestic affairs of ones birds.

In the matter of plants for the mixed aviary I have found the following to do best:*

Euonymus.
Common Laurel.
Portugal Laurel.
Box.
Hops.
Privet.
Ribbon Grass.
Helianthus.
Brambles.
Variegated Evergreen

The aviary shown in the photograph has four divisions: The largest one is on the left and in it is a very mixed collection, containing amongst others: Shore-Larks; Cirl (*Emberiza cirlus*), Reed (*E. schœniclus*), Chinese Chocolate, and Yellow (*E. citrinella*) Buntings; Diamond (*Geopelia cuneata*) and Cape (*Œna capensis*) Doves; Crossbill, etc. In the middle compartment are pairs of Bronze-wing Pigeons (*Phaps chalcoptera*), which are incubating a clutch of eggs; and Malabar Mynahs (*Poliopsar malabaricus*).

In the division with the high roof, are the odds and ends, and the Parrakeets. The "odds and ends" consist of single birds or birds that might interfere with the nests or eggs of other birds; among which are :—Rosy Pastor (*Pastor roseus*), Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californicus*), Silky Cowbird ♀ (*Molothrus bonariensis*), Pekin Robin ♂ (*Lothrix luteus*), the latter is a splendid songster, and was bred last year by one of our members, Miss Chawner, of Lyndhurst, Hants.

In this aviary there is no attempt to grow anything, for the Parrakeets will not allow a leaf or bud to remain on any shrub or bush.

When the nesting season is over the "odds and ends" will be returned to the largest aviary where there is plenty of cover, and the communicating doors of the middle compartments will be left open so that the birds can have the run of all.

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* This would vary a little with locality, for instance, none of the *Cupressidæ* flourish in Mitcham ; at least so the gardener tells me, and those planted here have proved a failure.—Ed.

All my birds have to winter out of doors, and as I only lost two birds, out of about sixty this past winter, it would thus appear that the conditions must suit them fairly well as they are very fit and are full of life and vivacity the "live-long" day. To me, a bird in a cage is an eyesore,* while in a large aviary I really think they are perfectly happy. On two occasions I turned out the Reed Buntings and each time they did nothing but search for a way in again, and this once achieved, judging from their demeanour, were overjoyed to find themselves safely *at home* once more.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 134.)

SCOPIDAE.

Scopus umbretta. HAMMERHEAD. Jola King (*Bathurst name*). SEYRA-JATA in Mandingo.

Range. Tropical Africa. Arabia. Madagascar. (*H.L.*)

This peculiar looking bird, a brown short-legged heavy-headed Heron is a well-known and common Gambian bird. One sees them in pairs or small parties all along the river and on every swamp, walking or standing at the edge of the water or wading in it. When disturbed they rise after a short run and fly off with a harsh cry, but usually do not go far. Their flight is by no means fast or graceful, as their rather square wings are flapped heavily and with apparent effort, while the big head with its down-pointed beak always suggests their being in imminent danger of a bad fall from too much weight in front. Occasionally at the beginning of the rains one may come across a party holding a sort of corroboree at some shallow pool, evidently a kind of love or courtship affair. They dance round and bow like pigeons to each other, or occasionally jump into the air over one another's backs, stopping in unison altogether at intervals for rest and to preen their own or their neighbours' feathers. The nest of the Hammerhead is a most conspicuous object, a mass of dead reeds, water-weeds and sticks matted together and placed in some tree close to water. In some of the creeks these nests are to be seen along the banks almost with the regularity of lamp-posts, so numerous are their builders. In general appearance they exactly resemble that built last year in the Great Aviary at the Zoo, except that they are usually much larger, being no doubt the accumulation of years. Their eggs are dead white.

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* While it is the aviary side of aviculture that appeals to me, nevertheless, there are those to whom an open air aviary is impossible, and there are several that I could name where the occupants of the cages in the respective birdrooms are as fit, and apparently as happy as aviary birds, but it is only achieved at an expenditure of care and labour that the aviarist is never called upon to expend.—Ed.

The birds' general colour is unrelieved sepia brown, darker on the crest, wings, and tail. The iris is dark brown, the bill and legs black. Length, 22 inches.

CICONIIDAE.

Ciconia alba. WHITE STORK.

Range. Europe to Central Asia. Africa and North India in winter. (*H.L.*)

C. nigra. BLACK STORK.

Range. Europe to Mongolia and China. India and Africa in winter. (*H.L.*).

Dissura episcopus. WHITE-NECKED STORK.

Range. Tropical Africa. India to Celebes. (*H.L.*)

These three Storks probably all occur in Gambia, the first two as winter visitors, the third as a resident, but I have never yet to my knowledge seen any of them here.

Abdimia abdimi. WHITE-BELLIED STORK.

Range. Tropical Africa. Arabia. Spain (*H.L*).

I once shot a specimen of this stork in Niumi and have twice since seen single birds in the same district, all in May or June. They are evidently rare here and probably only visit us for the rains. Their general appearance is that of a rather stoutly built short-legged Stork. In colour they are black glossed with bottle-green above, white below and on the lower back and rump. The skin of the forehead, face and throat is bare and red, that of the cheeks bluish. The beak is olive green tipped with red, the legs olive with pink joints and toes. Length, 30 inches.

Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis. SADDLE-BILLED STORK.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

These large Storks are resident in the Gambia, but are certainly rare, though I come across some half dozen or so every year. One sees them, nearly always in pairs, either flying over, or more commonly, stalking about some big dry swamp at a safe distance, for they are extremely wary birds and almost impossible to approach within shot-gun range. I once also saw a flock of 10 or 12 together, flying over McCarthy Island. At this place there was one year a tame Saddlebill, which had been taken young. When I first saw him he was nearly entirely covered (except for the wings and tail) with brown down and his beak was practically straight below as well as above. As he grew up he gradually moulted the down and reached nearly full plumage, before he was sent to Bathurst and eventually to England.

The adult bird is mainly black and white, the head, neck, wing-coverts and back being black glossed with purplish, the rump, the greater portion of the flights and under parts white. The beak, the lower outline of which is distinctly bowed, while the upper is straight or with just a suggestion of an upward tilt, is red at the base and the point with a broad black band between the two red portions. Above the nostrils, at the junction of the beak and forehead, is a bright yellow saddle-shaped shield, whence the bird gets its name. Round the eyes and base of the lower mandible the skin is bare and bright red in colour, and from each side of the lowest part of this bare patch hangs a little fleshy tag of the same colour. The legs are black with reddish joints. In length they measure nearly five feet, that is much bigger than the Marabout, and they look their size, too, both on the wing and on foot, and when seen near a Marabout literally tower above him. Their Mandingo name is Hello.

Leptoptilus crumeniferus. MARABOUT STORK.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

This well-known rather repulsive looking Stork is common nearly all over the Gambia, though rather local in its breeding haunts, which with us are always on large trees, generally silk-cottons, in or near native villages. The central portion of the South Bank is probably the district most affected by breeding Marabouts, and here a great many of the villages boast a breeding colony, but outside this district there are many other breeding places, though nowhere else are they quite so numerous. In the villages the birds are respected by the natives, who would resent any attempt to disturb them there, as they regard their presence as a sign of luck and peace, but when abroad nobody hesitates to shoot them and afterwards to eat the flesh, though this, one would think, cannot be particularly palatable. The people do not seem to mind in the least the awful mess these birds make beneath their nest-trees,—these and the ground below being whitened with the birds dung. If this happens to be very excessive and actually in some one's yard, that pit may be left unoccupied, but if it only falls in the street or "buntaba," (the meeting-place in the centre of every Mandingo town), no one seems to care at all or even to notice the stink it causes. Young birds, too, frequently fall out of the nests, and these the boys generally try to rear up until they can fly and rejoin their relatives. Once I was given an unbroken egg which had fallen out of a nest and into the pocket of the big gown of an old man who was sitting dozing in the "buntaba." These breeding trees are in many places also occupied by other birds, such as Vultures, and Pelicans, which live in amity with the Marabouts, though there may be an occasional quarrel,—mostly beak-clashing and wing-flapping about nest sites or desirable building material between some of the Pelicans and Marabouts. The eggs of the latter are dull white.

Marabouts are apparently carrion-feeders by choice, but they also, like other Storks, eat reptiles, frogs, fish, insects, and other creeping things from the swamps and water-side, in fact they seem almost omnivorous, to judge from what captive birds will put away. Locusts, these birds are specially fond of, and it is a great sight watching a number of these clumsy Storks pursuing a swarm flying through the bush. The Marabouts follow on foot or on the wing, as occasion demands, snapping the insects up in hundreds from the ground, or pursuing them into the air and settling on the swaying tops of the bushes to pick them off the twigs, all the time balancing themselves with their wings as well as they can on their insecure perches. But the meal they best appreciate is a dead beast. When a cow dies the first arrival is just as likely to be a Marabout as a Vulture, for their eye-sight for carrion is quite as keen as that of the latter bird and like them they are very frequently to be seen soaring high in the air on the look out for food, wheeling slowly round and round on motionless wings and often mounting by large circles until they are mere specks in the heavens. A Marabout, too, will tackle and devour quite a large snake, but not till he has thoroughly knocked it about and pecked it all over. Then having made sure it is quite dead, he will bolt it in a few gulps and down it goes whole. A peculiar habit these birds have is to assemble on the ground in large numbers for no apparent reason at all, unless it is, as the natives firmly believe, for the purpose of "holding court," and trying one of their number. This is not a common performance, or at any rate is but rarely seen, but Captain Stanley, the Commissioner of the Upper River Province, once when riding across a large dry swamp came upon an enormous flock holding conclave on a bare tract in the middle of this. Hundreds of them were collected in one spot, who let him ride right into their midst, and would scarcely trouble to get out of his way, merely hopping or walking to one side when almost touched and then at once returning to their places. He tried to make them rise by riding at them and cracking his whip, but they merely responded by opening their beaks and flapping their wings at the horse, in fact his actions only seemed to excite the birds to greater efforts to get rid of him. The horse naturally was beginning to object also, so that, fearing the animal would sooner or later get a peck in the eye, Captain Stanley rode off to camp for his camera, hoping to be able to get a photo of this most interesting assembly. Unfortunately on his return with the camera he found the crowd had departed. I once have seen something of the same sort, Vultures and Marabouts round a carcase, which the latter absolutely refused to leave, almost showing fight with their beaks and wings when one tried to drive them off, but this was only, no doubt, because they were gorged and careless of anything but an overwhelming longing for post-prandial rest. In the other case however, there was no carcase or any obvious cause for the gathering. Boldness like this is quite a departure from their normal behaviour, for as a rule when out in the bush they are pretty wary birds, and not easy to approach, though in the towns, relying on the protection always accorded them, they are fearless of man.

After a meal or when waiting for one, a Marabout will stand for hours absolutely still with legs apart, hunched back and head tucked down between the shoulders, while the beak is pointed straight at his toes, a picture of solemn meditation. At another time the position will be varied, the bird will stand on one leg with thrown back head and beak pointing vertically upwards and opened from time to time into a long-drawn yawn of sheer laziness or repletion. In fact nearly all a Marabout's attitudes and movements on the ground are grotesque, as indeed is his general appearance. A most comical sight is the "showing off" of one of these birds; he puffs out his throat pouch, raises his wings, and walks or hops solemnly round the object of his worship with out-stretched neck and an occasional peck at the ground at his or her feet.

Marabouts make good yard-pets and act as excellent scavengers for a compound, as nothing comes amiss to them, from mixed biscuits to chicken heads and feet and other worse forms of offal. If he has his wing feathers a tame one will generally roost at night on the highest hut in the immediate neighbourhood or on some bare tree, but all day, he is about the yard, generally pretty near the kitchen.

Native names are Jimmu (*Mandingo*), Jimmi and Ngedj (*Joloff*).

Description. The head and neck are bare (or partially covered with scanty down) and coloured an unwholesome-looking pink mottled with brown and yellow, while from the front of the lower part of the latter hangs a pink pouch of skin, which can be dilated with air when the bird wills. The wings and upper parts are grey with black flights, the under parts white, the under tail-coverts being absolutely pure white and forming the beautiful tuft of downy plumes commonly known as "Marabou feathers." The iris is brown, the bill greenish yellow, the legs black.

Pseudotantalus ibis. WOOD-IBIS.

Range. Tropical Africa. Madagascar. (*H.L.*)

These distinctly handsome birds are fairly common in the Gambia, and like the Marabouts are also local in their breeding places. Like them, too, they nest in trees in the native towns in company with Vultures, Pelicans, and Crows, but I do not know any place where both Wood Ibises and Marabouts nest together. These birds, whose Mandingo name is "Kaminudo," spend the day fishing in the swamps or on the river, but return at nightfall to their urban roosting places, flying homewards in small parties as the sun goes down. Their nests are comparatively large collections of sticks, and coarse grasses, and there are usually a great many in one tree, not merely one or at most three or four as is commonly the case with Marabouts. An adult Wood Ibis is a beautifully plumaged bird, white on the head and neck and the greater part of the body and below, black with a metallic sheen on the wings and tail. The white parts are nearly everywhere washed with pink, while on the upper and lower wing-coverts this pink becomes a lovely rosy band. The face and upper throat is bare and red, the bill yellow, cylindrical in section and decurved towards the tip, the legs red-pink with black toes. In the young the plumage is much mottled with brown and the pink wash is absent or very indistinct.

To be continued.

Further Notes on the Breeding of Tanagers.

By Dr. J. Easton Scott.

In the March issue of the present volume of *Bird Notes* we had some notes on the breeding of the Blue Tanager (*Tanagra episcopus*) and mention was made of several attempts last year on the part of the Scarlets (*Rhamphocœlus brazilius*) to attain the same result. The latter species have at last been successful, and, as I believe it is the first time these birds have been reared in captivity, a few notes on the subject may be of interest.

The parents are the same two birds that were mentioned in the March number, and have spent the winter out of doors. All the time they have been exceedingly fit, and after the spring moult, the cock became most handsome, his garment of fiery scarlet and velvet-black, being very tight and silken, and the hues very intense. These birds have always been wild and shy, and usually fly off to the other end of the aviary upon anyone's approach. They become much more confiding when feeding young, but even then they much prefer to have their mealworms thrown to them through the wire-netting which roofs the flight, and they are the most agile of any of my birds at catching their food on the wing. They have also proved themselves very amicable with the other inmates of the aviary, which is more than can be said of all members of the species, for, during the present spring another pair in an adjoining aviary have worked so much havoc amongst the other birds that they had eventually to be shut up in a place by themselves.

After a somewhat clamorous love-making, the birds

I now wish to write about set up a cosy little nest in the same laurel bush, which they have always selected. By the 15th of April the nest was completed. It was a well built open structure, and consisted of an assortment of rooty fibres, small pieces of stick and hay, and a few dead leaves. I may remark that it is in no way such an elegant home as their cousins, the Blue Tanagers make. The latter are much more fastidious and prefer, above all things, teased-out rope with occasional bits of paper, with which they construct a rarely beautiful nest.

For some reason or other the Scarlets were dissatisfied with their first nest, and again they set to work and built up a second, a few inches away from it. In fact, they dismantled the first considerably, in making the second, and it was finished on April the 24th. Apparently it was more to their liking, for the first egg was laid on April 25th, and the second on April 26th, whereupon incubation began.

The birds seem only to lay two eggs—at least that has been the case with this pair every time they have attempted to breed.

The eggs have already been described—pale blue with black spots, and are very like those of our common Thrush, both in size and marking.

The hen bird does all the incubating, and very rarely leaves the nest. His lordship prefers to disport himself about the aviary, and have as little to do with the business on hand as possible at this stage.

On May the 6th and 7th two young were hatched—little dark brown ugly creatures. By the 11th they were beginning to show quills, and had developed little brown gollywog patches of down on their heads. On the 19th of May they both left the nest. Both were strong little birds though they were poorly feathered. On referring to my notes of last year, I find that the young bird which then only survived a few days, left the nest in much the same condition and also on the 13th day. I cannot help thinking that these youngsters would have a better chance if they postponed their advent into the wide world for a few days longer, but it rather looks as if this were their instinctive time for feeling grown-up.

For several days and nights they remained in the bushes before they were strong enough to flutter through the windows into the shelter house. Up till now their progress had been about equal, but some days afterwards I found that one of them was always on the floor, while the other could fly for quite a considerable distance. The latter also developed much more rapidly, which I think entirely due to the exercise, for the parents are most impartial in their feeding. What has happened to the little one I don't quite know, but it has apparently lost what one would consider a bird's primal instinct, viz., the ability to perch. There appears to be some contracture of the toes, so that, while the little bird can stand up all right, its toes are always doubled up and tightly clenched; so much so that even if they are opened out and put round a small branch, it will only sit there for a minute or so, then whenever it changes its position the toes double up again like a clenched fist, and of course the little creature drops down on to the floor. This is all the more curious as it could perch quite well when it left the nest. Whether it is due to some injury I do not know, but I make a point of, as it were, undoing its feet every day, in the hope that it will prevent a permanent contraction, and that eventually it will be able to regain its power, otherwise it is doing fairly well and can fly short distances, though, of course, it can only alight on the floor.

From the time the youngsters were hatched the parents have been most assiduous in their care of them. How much live insect food they get for themselves I do not know, but the only other food I have seen given has been mealworms, and these in abundance—and also some of the boiled biscuit food which is daily provided for the soft-bills. Both little birds resemble their mother in colouring, being of a dark reddish brown. The stronger of the two pursues its parents all round the aviary for food, and I hope, by the time these notes are through the printer's hands, it will be able to cater for itself, and so fulfil the F.B.C. law on what is meant by "breeding a species in captivity."

Later (June 1st).—The young bird referred to above, with crippled feet, died on May 28th during the cold wet weather, which followed the dry period. The other continued to thrive and was fending for itself on May 29th.

Freely Imported Species and Their Treatment.

By Lady Edith Douglas Pennant.

Breeding the Pope Cardinal. Seeing in May *Bird Notes* that Mr. Teschemaker has bred the Pope Cardinal (*P. larvata*). and that there is no previous record of its having been bred to maturity in captivity—this came quite as a surprise to me. One young bird, which still lives, was bred in my aviary last year; I did not send in any notice of the occurence as I quite thought so common a species must have reared young many times. It would appear, unless someone else is in front of me, that I am entitled to the Club's medal.

[The Pope Cardinal does not stand alone among common (freely imported) species, in there being no record of its having been bred in captivity, and this simply illustrates the need of members sending in periodically full notes of breeding results in their aviaries, leaving us to strike out any note not of general interest. If any reader knows of any instance of any authentic record of this species having been reared in captivity till it was fending for itself, will they kindly notify us *at once.*—Ed.]

I am afraid after this lapse of time I cannot give so connected an account as I would have liked, particularly regarding the change from nestling to adult plumage, as thinking they had been often bred, I took very little notice of the occurence at the time, which I much regret now, but I am only stating definately such points as I am sure about.

I bought the parent birds in 1910 and in April 1911 they showed signs of pairing, a nest was duly built, both birds assisting in its construction. It was placed high up in the shelter shed and was an untidy structure, composed of sticks, bents, moss and aviary rubbish. The eggs of the first clutch I did not actually see, but I did the second, and the eggs were greenish with pale markings. I do not know how many young were hatched, but I only saw the one which duly left the nest. The parent birds had access to mealworms, live ants' eggs, soft food, milk sop, fruit, and seeds, and on this (principally insects I think) they reared their baby; I noticed while the young bird was still in the nest that the parent birds were very busy foraging about the aviary - for insects I take it - evidently not wholly content with the amount or kind of live food provided.

It left the nest when quite small, its tail being little more than half-inch long. As the series of birds in this aviary was a very mixed one, I made a point of putting it back in the nest every evening, though the old birds made a great fuss when I touched it, flying round and squaking all the time.

My *recollections* of its nestling plumage are, that it resembled the adult birds, except its head, which was coppery, and its breast, which was greyish, and its plumage lacked the lustre of that of its parents. While I distinctly remember seeing the bird in the transition stage, I made no notes, and I have no record of the date, my impression is that it was quite late autumn before it was in full colour.

The old birds built another nest, in a privet bush this time and hatched out three chicks, which did well for about a week or ten days, when one evening (July 23), I caught a Giant Whydah in the act of killing the hen, and as, after this sad event the cock took no notice of his family, we killed them instead of leaving them to starve. I thought this rather strange, as the cock bird was most assiduous in his care of the young bird fully reared from the previous nest, till it was able to fend for itself he never left it, in fact, was quite a model parent. I noticed that the callow young in this nest were partially covered with dark brown down.

I have already said that this young bird proved to be a hen, she has paired with her father, and is now (May 21st) incubating a clutch of three eggs, in a nest constructed entirely of shavings.

This record is, I am afraid, rather muddled, but is, apart from actual dates, correct. I must repeat that there is no detailed record* of the assumption of adult plumage, but the facts are as stated at the periods referred to.

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*It is a pity not to keep an aviary log-book or diary, the better plan is to have one hanging in each aviary and note events daily, for the lack of this, many interesting facts go unrecorded and accounts of successes are not as complete as they might be.

Some Colony Birds.

(*Continued from page 130.*)

Compiled by W. T. Page, F.Z.S., from an article by the Rev. Chas. B. Dawson, J.S., M.A., in "TIMEHRI" (The Journal of the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society of British Guiana), with compliments and thanks to the Author and Editors.

Mr. Dawson next refers to the *Icteridæ,* of which he tells us there are fifteen species found in Demerara. This family contains many interesting and intelligent species, but there are others equally dull, and stupid. Very many of the species feed largely on seed, others mainly on fruit, but all of them also take largely of insects.

CORN-BIRD (*Molothrus atronitens*) "My personal introduction to this
" class was a young cock Corn-Bird. It is variously named Oats-Bird, Rice-
" Bird, and from its cuckoo habits of laying its egg in the nest of another
" bird, chiefly in those of Wrens, the Lazy-Bird . . . . . . The Corn-Bird
" is the size of a Starling, and glossy blue-black . . . . . . I know no bird
" which has such a sleek, slender, and glossy appearance, and so stately a
" gait. He seems to have been bred in a drawing-room. But the hen is
" uniform brown. He is the polished gentleman who married his
" cook and so will not concern himself about domestic affairs; and she,
" slighted by her mate who will not call her spouse, will not trouble her-
" self either, and so she cunningly deposits her egg in the nest of the god-
" bird . . . . . . They take captivity in a philosophical manner and make
" no mad attempts to escape . . . , . . actually beginning to sing on the
" day of capture and are very soon in full song"

Mr. Dawson remarks that they become very friendly and that every aviary ought to contain Corn-Birds.

AMERICAN REDBREAST (*Leistes guianensis*): This species, known in this country as the Red-breasted, or Flame-breasted Marsh-Bird, was introduced to English aviculture by my esteemed friend Mr. E. W. Harper. He kindly presented me with a pair, which, though beautiful and interesting, as all rare birds are, at any rate for a time, were yet dull, rather stupid and lethargic.

" Of very different temper and degree of intelligence is the American
" Red-breast or Robin as it is called . . . . it has no affiinity with the Eng-
" lish bird of that name. Its flaming red-breast —the colonr of Tommy
" Atkins' scarlet tunic—however, fully justifies its first title . . . there are,
" also patches of red on the shoulders of the wings. The colour of the
" rest of the bird is dull black, the feathers being edged with light brown,
" givesit the appearance of being clad in scales . . . Nature has given it but
" little intelligence, and the only reason for keeping it in an aviary is the
" colour it lends to the whole; for its breast in the light is like a ruby
' lamp, delightful to the eyes. Like the Lark in England it lives in the

> " fields, though unlike that bird, perches on shrubs and low branches of trees
> " . . . . . it is ungainly on a perch and often, at least when in a cage, tumbles
> " off. At certain seasons whole flocks congregate together . . . . It
> " has a curious habit of rising in the air and then, half closing its wings
> " shooting down like an arrow as it utters its weird cry."

Diet in Captivity: Seeds, (Canary, millet, oats, hemp, rape, wheat, sunflower), fruit and insects.

CADURI OR COMMON HANGNEST (*Icterus chrysocephalus*). Hangnests are well known to English aviculture, and their beauty, intelligence, and fearless demeanour, make them favourites as cage pets, but their murderous pugnacity to other birds unfit them for the aviary, save perhaps with certain Parrakeets (they may work mischief even there); their song also is pleasing, full and mellow, therefore Mr. Dawson's experience is interesting and shows that there may be one or more species of *Icterus* not so murderous as some of their fellows, in a cage at any rate—more probably the exception that proves the rule.

> " The Caduri will become very tame going about the house and making
> " itself generally friendly and mischievous. In an aviary it is inclined
> " to be too interfering with others from sheer inquisitiveness and not maliciously,
> ' let us hope. When my young Olive-green Tanager (*Saltator*)
> " was put into the cage, it would open its mouth to my Caduri to be fed;
> " but the latter merely looked into it like a dentist and gave an occasional
> " peck. Later on I found these birds actually feeding each other. The
> " Caduri would bring Tom Pitcher (*Olive-green Saltator*) a morsel of food
> " and then apparently relent its generosity and take it back again, but then
> " Tom Pitcher cried so piteously that he gave it back again and so the game
> " went on."

The marvel to me is, knowing the genus, fairly well as a whole, that the Caduri did not brain the Saltator.

KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*): Known in this country as the Sulphury Tyrant; it has been exhibited at the London Zoo and has been in the hands of private aviculturists also. It is an interesting bird, tame, confiding, and chummy with its owners, but as it has a bill between that of a Kingfisher and a Barbet, care must be taken as to what it is associated with; this applies to all the true Tyrants.

> " It is a bold yellow and brown bird with a large head and bill like a
> " Kingfisher or Barbet. . . It is a sturdy pugnacious bird with a large head
> " and measuring seven or eight inches from tip to tip of beak and tail . . .
> " On the whole it is a handsome bird, but its manners are plebian . . . . . .
> " It is the sparrow of Demerara, and like the sparrow it has taken possesion

"of the town and keeps the other birds in order, going about as if the "whole place belonged to it, ... it is never seen in flocks but always "in twos or families. It is a domestic bird and holds all family ties sacred. "As I say, it owns the place, and its nest a big affair, roofed in, is built "high on some tree without any attempt at concealment . . . . . . The "Kiskadee will eat anything that any other bird will eat, or nearly so. "He may be seen hovering over the water like a hawk to filch fishes from "their watery element. He will dart into the air and catch beetles on the "wing. He will gorge himself with palm fruit. He will haunt your back "yard for kitchen stuff . . . . there are about forty species of Tyrants in "the colony and quite five other species that might be taken for our friend."

GREY-HEADED TYRANT-BIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*).

Mr. Dawson next refers to this species, which he tells us is like a Kiskadee in mufti.

"He is a bird of lighter build and feels like a handful of feathers in the "hand. His head and neck are grey, his tail is longer and is forked. He "has a more varied and more musical note. He seems to say "Scissors in "it, scissors in it, scissors in it! its absurd, its absurd, its absurd' . . . He "is a shy and melancholy bird as his specific name indicates. I kept one "for several weeks; but he moped in a cage and had all the bearing of a "person much injured and offended. So I let him go again . . , . he is a "perfect catcher of insects and may often be seen, generally alone, plying "his craft from the telephone wires."

Mr. Dawson tells us that there are some twenty-one species of Finches found in Demerara. He only refers in the present article to one species as under.

TWA-TWA (*Oryzoborus crassirostris*). This species, is known to English aviculture as the Thick-billed Seed-Finch. I kept the species in my aviary, for some months, and though looking like a formidable Grosbeak, it was amiable (so far as I can speak of it, from so short an acquaintance of a single pair). I am quoting Mr. Dawson *in extenso* re this species.

"At the head of the Finches we will place the Twa-Twa (*O. crassir-* "*ostris*), a typical cage bird. It is the size of a large canary, but it is black, "with just a narrow bar of white upon the wings, just below what is called "the 'bastard-wing,' reminding one of the ribbon of a military decoration, "except that the bird wears it on both sides. And certainly the bird has "a military bearing with its great Wellingtonian beak. Its beak, as its name "implies, is a very formidable instrument. It is wedge-shaped and broad- "er at its base than it is long, the head in consequence looks flat. The "beak being slaty white, is very conspicuous. I know by experience that "the bird can give a sharp nip with this vice-like weapon, and it hangs "on with all the tenacity of a bull-dog. The hen bird is uniform brown "as are also the young until the first moult. The Twa-twa never "shows any signs of strong affection; he is too much of a reserved, courtly gentleman for that; but he has his own way of making known his "sense of gratitude for kindness. He will spread his tail fanwise and jerk "it from side to side; or he will flit joyously from perch to perch; or he "will pour forth his song. His song is masculine; some say it is harsh, "I don't think so. It invariably begins with two staccato notes and "from this, his colloquial name is perhaps derived. Each song consists of "two parts, each much alike. We may call them the octave and the "sestette. On the whole a bird sonnet much after the type of Michael Angelo. The song is not so sweet as that of the Canary, but I prefer it. It "has more of the touch of wild untampered nature."

I feel sure this compilation from Mr. Dawson's most interesting article, of which it is a mere abridgement, will have proved of general interest.

Aviary Notes for 1912.

By Rev. J. Mapletoft Paterson.

So far I cannot claim to have done much in the breeding line, but to me the little that is going on at present is very interesting.

My Black-cheeked Lovebirds, after two futile attempts to rear young, have hatched out three chicks, which are doing very well.

A pair of Cockateels have one sturdy youngster, growing fast. Twice before this pair were upset by very simple things, which caused them to neglect their eggs (about to hatch out), and the chicks died in their shells. The first interruption was the introduction of a pair of Red-crested Cardinals into their aviary, which did not even approach the Cockateels' nest. Moral: do not introduce fresh birds into an aviary when Cockateels [or other birds.—Ed.] are sitting. The second interruption was the placing of two loads of turf into the bottom of the aviary, which did not take ten minutes to do. The young hen Cockateel, which laid fertile eggs last year, and hatched and reared the young, when only twelve months old; this year she laid three clutches of small, yokeless eggs, and died egg-bound with the twelfth egg. I felt quite relieved when she died.

A pair of Long-tailed Grassfinches (*Poephila acuticauda*) are sitting on eggs in quite a small aviary, 4 ft. x 5ft., which they have to themselves in a dark secluded corner. A pair of Jacarini Finches (*Volatinia jacarini*) after playing with nesting material for two months, have at last built in a clematis against a wall, six feet off the ground, and are sitting ting on three eggs.

A pair of Indigo Buntings (*Cyanospiza cyanea*), in a large open aviary have built somewhere, for I have seen them carrying about material, and I have seen them pair, but have failed to discover their nest.

A hen English Bullfinch mated to a Siberian Goldfinch, laid four eggs, all fertile.

A hen Greenfinch, reared in my aviary last year, has paired with a Chaffinch, and has built a nest on a wooden ledge, and laid five eggs.

A large Norwich hen, mated to a cock Greenfinch, has laid four eggs, all fertile.

My Budgerigars have been very prolific.

My Zebra Finches have had nest after nest, and produced nothing. Two pairs of Gouldians, and three pairs of Pintail Nonpareils are in tip-top fettle, and look like nesting. Pairs of Blackcaps, Silverbills, Bib Finches, and Goldfinches, have all been carrying about nesting material, but I have not yet seen their nests.

I noted the following rarer wild British birds. between May 10th, and May 20th. Six pairs of Pied Flycatchers all in one wood, on the banks of the river, near here (Sussex); I also saw ten Buzzards on the wing, in one place in a southern county. I was told that there were at least a dozen pairs of Buzzards in that neighbourhood, and that the farmers were beginning to complain of the toll they levied on the chickens.

If this is the case, I am afraid that the Buzzard will share the same fate as the Little Owl.

Young Queen Alexandra Parrakeets.

(*Spathopterus Alexandræ*).

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Etc:

A pair of these beautiful Parrakeets went to nest in April, the hen laying in a long box, at the end of which is a cup-shaped depression, into which I had previously placed some rotten wood, which she bit up, and finally laid seven eggs on it.

The nesting-box hangs about 12 feet up on the wall of a roosting house of an aviary. The Parrakeets were constantly seen to mate, indeed this took place certainly twice a day when the hen left the nest.

The male bird fed her well first of all, and then she immediately flew back to her eggs. After she had laid her full complement of eggs, I think the mating ceased.

At the beginning of May I had not seen her for some days, and becoming nervous as to whether she was alive, I placed a ladder under the nesting-box, but had hardly mounted towards it, before she popped out, looking perfectly well. By means of a door at the end of the box, which is hung horizontally on the wall, I could look in, and at the far end I managed to count seven eggs. A week afterwards the young ones were heard making a raucous scraping call as they were being fed. The female remained almost entirely in the nesting box for nearly three weeks, but the male went in, probably to feed her; yet when he was in, there was always a great noise from the youngsters; so great, that I really began to hope that at least five out of the seven eggs had hatched

The first day that the young Parrakeets were heard calling, was the 12th of May.

On the 31st, I ventured to look in the nesting-box once more, and although slightly disappointed (for one is never satisfied!) at there being only two; my momentary feelings of disappointment were soon turned into those of triumphant pleasure, when I saw that they were two fine birds, completely feathered, and looking as far as colour goes, rather washed-out editions of their mother.

As I write (3rd of June) they are not yet out of the nest, but I am hoping that they will be before long, and that with safety.

Another pair of these Parrakeets is nesting.

They are prolific layers, at any rate in captivity, one hen having laid at least ten eggs in April and May, but she was not satisfied with her nest, and scrambled about, so that most of the eggs were pierced by her claws.

I am sure Parrakeets are more successful in their nesting arrangements when they can go in for at least two feet down a passage, so to say, before arriving at the actual nest. If they have to go immediately downwards and on to the nest, they are apt to break the eggs.

The Two nestlings left the box in which they were hatched on June 6th, when they were probably about five weeks old. They can now (June 9th) feed off biscuit sop when it is held in front of them.

Their colouring resembles that of the adult female, except that the crown of the head is mauve-pink instead of pale blue. The rose-coloured throats are quite as brilliant as in the adult bird.

The parent birds are busily preparing for a second brood. [We congratulate Mr. Astley on his success, in breeding this rare and lovely species for the first time in Great Britain. Ed.]

May Nesting Notes from Benham Valence.

BY HUBERT D. ASTLEY, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., ETC

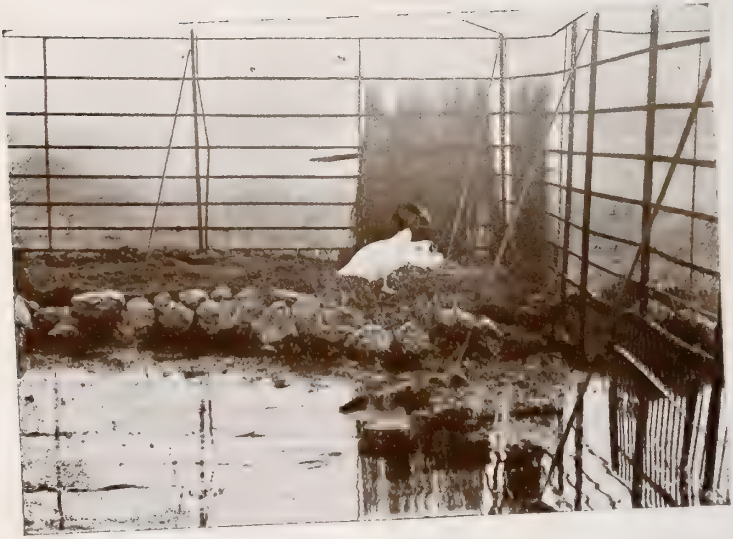
THE GREAT BUSTARDS (*Otis tarda*) have nested again as they did last year, but again the eggs were addled, although the male displayed a great deal in March and April, and the female sat closely for over 30 days in the grass under an apple tree in an orchard.

SHAMAS (*Cittacincla macroura*): My pair have nested in a box, but the eggs did not hatch.

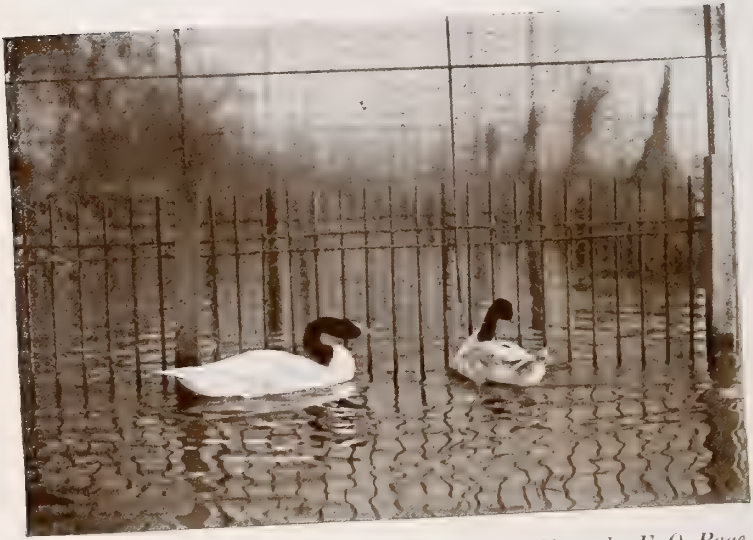
GREY THRESHES (*Harporhynchus cinereus*): These are a recent acquisition, which I believe are inhabitants of Mexico. They are sprightly birds, about the size of a Song Thrush, with longish curved bills and glassy eyes. Insectivorous mixture, fruit and live insects appear to suit them well, as they have already built a large nest, rather like a Jay's, but did not lay. The nest was built in some branches of Scotch fir which were piled up in a corner of the aviary.

AMERICAN BLUE-BIRDS (*Sialis sialis*). A pair of this lovely species have a nest in one of the barrels I got from Mr. Page.

A PORT LINCOLN PARRAKEET mated to a Pennant, laid



Black-Necked Swans.
Sitting bird incubating six eggs.



Photos by E. O. Page.

Young Black-Necked Swans.
About nine months old.

six eggs in a nesting-box, but she did not sit well, owing to being disturbed by other Parrakeets.

BLACK-NECKED SWANS. These do well here, and mostly rear some young annually; they have hatched out four young ones, three of which are now growing into big birds; they were hatched in April.

RUDDY-HEADED BERNICLE GEESE (Falkland Islands). A pair of this rare species have nested and laid a clutch of four eggs, out of which were duly hatched four young ones.

FIRE-TAILED FINCHES (*Zonæginthus bellus*). A pair of this charming Australian species have nested and laid a clutch of eggs, but nothing came of the first venture for this season.

BLUE BUDGERIGARS. These have incubated a clutch of eggs this season—no result!

Species which have reared young in Captivity in Great Britain.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., ETC.

For some long period the need has been apparent, for a list of such species as have reared young in captivity, but the task is a huge one, and several times has been put on one side as hopeless; but after receiving many reminders and requests, I decided (*nil desperandum*) to publish a tentative list, leaving it to members to send in records of any other species they know of. To this end I have waded through all the books in my library, containing such records, and then sent the result on to my esteemed friend and fellow-member, Mr. W. E. Teschemaker, asking him to read through and add any other species which were known to him: he very kindly did so, and I must express my thanks to him, for his kind assistance has made the list more complete than it would otherwise have been.

It will be noticed that some of the species have a query mark against them, these are doubtful records, and if the list had been kept back for them to have been verified, it would have meant almost indefinitely postponing it—so I decided to present it in this form, leaving the records of such species to be verified or struck off, when cases of successful breeding of such species were sent in.

I also venture to hope that the difficulties, referred to above, will make apparent to all readers of *Bird Notes*, the need of keeping proper records of each seasons' results in their aviaries, and duly recording same periodically. It is proposed to publish a supplementary list at the end of each season, thus keeping the list up-to-date. It is only by the mutual help of members of F.B.C. and other readers of *Bird Notes* sending in details of other known records to complete this list, and subsequent records to keep it so, that the object aimed at can be achieved.

I propose to divide the list into the accepted groups or orders—it will be observed that the popular name is often misleading—and to include in this instalment the *Fringillidæ* and *Ploceidæ*, that is:

Fringillidæ: Grosbeaks, Buntings, and True Finches.

Ploceidæ: Waxbills, Grassfinches, Mannikins, Whydahs and Weavers.

FRINGILLIDÆ.

GROSBEAK (*Coccothraustinæ*).

- Virginian Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Hedymeles ludovicianus* .
- Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca cyanea*).
- Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*).
- Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes vulgaris*).
- Cuba Finch (*Phonipara canora*).
- Little Finch (*Phonipara pusila*).
- Jacarini Finch (*Volatinia jacarini*).
- Olive Finch (*Phonipara lepida*).
- White-throated Finch (*Spermophila albigularis*).

BUNTINGS (*Emberizinæ*).

- Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*).
- Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*).
- Indigo Bunting (*Cyanospiza cyanea*)
- Mexican Bunting.
- Nonpareil Bunting (*Cyanospiza ciris*).
- Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schœniclus*).
- Chingolo Song-Sparrow (*Zonotrichia pileata*).
- Diuca Finch (*Diuca diuca*).
- Pileated Finch (*Coryphospingus pileatus*).
- Green Cardinal (*Gubernatrix cristata*).
- Pope Cardinal (*Paroaria larvata*).
- Red-Crested Cardinal (*Paroaria cucullata*).

True Finches (*Fringillinæ*).
Bullfinch, European (*Pyrrhula europæa*).
,, Desert-trumpeter (*Erythrospiza githaginea*).
Chaffinch, Blue (*Fringilla teydea*).
Crossbill. (*Loxia curvirostra*).
Finch, Alario (*Alario alario*).
,, Pelzelns Saffron (*Sycalis pelzelni*).
,, Ruddy (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).
,, Saffron (*Sycalis flaveola*).
,, Serin (*Serinus serinus*).
,, Yellowish (*Sycalis arvensis*).
Goldfinch (*Carduelis elegans*).
Grosbeak Pine (*Pinicola enucleator*).
Linnet (*Linota cannabina*).
Redpoll, Lesser (*Acanthis rufescens*).
,, Mealy (*Acanthis linaria*).
Seed-eater, Bearded.
Serin Yellow-rumped (*Serinus angolensis*).
Singing-finch, Green (*Serinus icterus*).
,, ,, Grey (*Serinus leucopygius*).
Siskin (*Chrysomitris spinus*).
,, Black-headed (*Chrysomitris icterica*).
Sparrow, Cape (*Passer arcuatus*).
,, Cinnamon Tree (*Passer cinnamomeus*).
,, Common (*Passer domesticus*).
,, Grey-headed (*Passer diffusus*).
,, Tree (*Passer montanus*).
,, Yellow (*Passer luteus*).
Twite (*Acanthis flavirostris*)

PLOCEIDÆ.

Usually divided into two sub-families *Viduinea* and *Ploceinæ*, which I shall not use in this list, but merely divide them popularly.

Waxbills.
Avadavat Common (*Sporæginthus amandava*).
Avadavat, Green (*Stictospiza formosa*).
Cordon Bleu (*Estrilda phoenicotis*).
Finch, Crimson (*Neochmia phaeton*).
,, Lavender (*Lagonosticta cærulescens*).
Firefinch, African (*Lagonosticta minima*).
Waxbill, Blue-breasted (*Estrilda angolensis*)
,, Crimson-winged (*Pytelia phoenicoptera*).
,, Gold-breasted (*Sporæginthus subflavus*).
,, Orange-cheeked (*Sporæginthus melpodus*).
,, St. Helena (*Estrilda astrilda*).
,, Sydney (*Ægintha temporalis* .

GRASSFINCHES AND MANNIKINS: As this grouping is not used or recognised save in avicultural circles, and the Mannikins being simply sombre coloured Grassfinches, and the lethargic demeanour more or less common to both, I am grouping them together in this list.

Bengalese (*Munia domestica*).
Finch, Bib (*Spermestes nana*).
,, Bicheno's (*Stictoptera bichenovi*).
,, Cherry (*Aidemosyne modesta*).
,, Chestnut-breasted (*Munia castaneithorax*)
,, Diamond (*Steganopleura guttata*).
,, Gouldian (*Poephila gouldiæ*).
,, Long-tailed Grass (*Poephila acuticauda*).
,, Masked Grass (*Poephila personata*).
,, Painted (*Emblema picta*).
,, Parrot (*Erythrura psittacea*).
,, Parson (*Poephila cincta*).
,, Pectoral (*Munia pectoralis*).
,, Quail (*Ortygospiza polyzona*).
,, Red-headed (*Amadina erythrocephala*).
,, Ribbon (*Amadina fasciata*).
,, Ringed (*Stictoptera annulosa*).
,, Rufous-tailed Grass- (*Bathilda ruficauda*).
,, Spice (*Munia punctulata*).
,, Striated (*Uroloncha striata*).
,, Tricoloured-Parrot (*Erythrura trichroa*.
,, Yellow-rumped (*Munia flaviprymna*).
,, Zebra (*Tæniopygia castanotis*).
Mannikin, Bronze-winged (*Spermestes cucullata*).
,, Magpie (*Amauresthes fringilloides*).
,, Rufous-backed (*Spermestes nigriceps*).
Silverbill, African (*Aidiemosyne cantans*).
,, Indian (*Aidemosyne malabarica*)
Sparrow, Java (*Munia oryzivora*).
,, White Java (*Munia oryzivora var. alba.*)

WHYDAHS AND WEAVERS.

Whydahs, Giant (*procne*).
,, Pin-tailed (*Vidua principalis*.
,, Red-collared (*Penthetria ardens*)
Weavers, Black-faced (......................)
,, Grenadier (*Euplectes sundevalli* [sub-species]).
,, Red-beaked (*Quelea quelea*).
,, Rufous-necked (*Hyphantornis cucullatus*).

To be Continued.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: The season is farily early this year, and there already have been numerous successes, and also many disappointments.

In the aviaries of the Hon. Mrs. Bamfylde, young Parrot Finches are on the wing, and the parent birds again engaged in the duties of incubation. Painted Finches are incubating a clutch of five eggs; there is a young Long-tailed Grassfinch on the wing and, Long-tailed Grassfinches, Double Banded (*Bicheno*) Finches, Blue-breasted Waxbills, Cuban Finches, Cordon Bleus and Orange-breasted Waxbills, are all closely incubating clutches of eggs.

In Dr. Scott's aviaries, three young Grey-winged Ouzels, are on the wing and doing well, as also are four young Zebra Finches. Gouldian Finches are feeding young, and Violet-eared Waxbills are on bui'ding intent.

From the far North we hear Miss Drummond has Diamond and Parrot Finches, and Cockateels incubating.

In Mr. 'Shore-Baily's Wiltshire aviaries there are young of: Egyptian Geese, Californian Quail, Black-checked Lovebirds, Cockateels., Bicheno's Finches, Starlings (*S. vulgaris*), Diamond and Brush Bronze-wing Doves and Rosella Parrakeets, in most instances fending for themselves. Cuban Finches, Cordon Bleus, Gouldian, and other Grassfinches almost due to hatch.

In Mr. Brook's aviaries at Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan, the New Guinea Rifle Birds are closely incubating, at least the hen is, two eggs, and the Minivets are showing a strong desire to nest, for which their enclosure is not so suitable as it might be. We hope soon to hear that these rare and superb species have been successfully bred.

In Dr. G. B. Thwaite's aviary Zenaida Doves are incubating, also several species of Finches.

In Lady Edith Douglas Pennant's aviaries Demoiselle Cranes laid and incubated a clutch of eggs, but all were infertile. Pekin Robins have built and are sitting closely.

In Mrs. C. H. Read's Cambridge aviary Red-rumped Parrakeets are feeding a brood of four, and two young Grey Singing-finches have been on the wing for a month—the parent birds are now incubating another clutch of eggs.

In my own aviaries, Grey Finches, Olive Finches, Cut-throats, and Green Singing-finches are feeding young; twelve young Californian Quail are past the critical stage and well on seed; three young Grey-winged Ouzels are fending for themselves, and their parents have built another nest, this time under shelter, and the first egg of the clutch deposited to-day (June 9th). It was quite an exciting day in the aviary when the young Ouzels left the nest, the hen Quail objected to the young Ouzels flopping into the midst of or near her chicks, and promptly proceeded to administer drastic punishment, the parent Ouzels resented this and promptly "went for" the Quail, and "feathers flew"—there were several such episodes before they learned there was room and food for all. I ought to say that from the beginning the Quail chicks have not been cooped, but with their parents have had the run of the aviary from the day of hatching. Sixteen were hatched, of which twelve are still living, and are now fourteen days old.

In Mr. J. Smith's aviaries (Kendal), Many-colour and Stanley Parrakeets are engaged in feeding young, with apparently, every prospect of them being successfully reared.

In Capt. Reeve's aviaries (Leadenham, Lincs.) Olive and Cuba Finches; Red-billed Weavers, St. Helena Waxbills, Cut-throats, etc., are nesting.

In Mon. Pauvvels' aviaries (Belguim) some interesting attempts and results have occurred. The Crowned Jays have twice hatched out, but in each case the male parent has dined off his offspring, though the last couple lived for 10 days.

Mr. Millsum promises details later. Bourke's Parrakeets are also feeding young, and a hybrid Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus*) is apparently ready to leave the nest.

NESTING NOTES FROM THE ZOO: The new "garden aviaries" opposite the Apes' House, are already yielding some results (it is surprising that these were not adopted long ago, seeing the success that has attended private aviculture in similar enclosures, and while it is fully admitted that birds in such aviaries *are not always on view*, still we are glad to see that some of the stock is to have natural quarters during the summer months), the following all have young: Martineta Tinamous (5), White-fronted Doves (2), Grey-winged Ouzels (2), White-throated Ground-Thrush (*Geocichla cyanonotus*), the latter species has not been previously bred in Great Britain.

The White Storks have again nested and hatched out five young birds of which only one survives; the dietary is chopped fish and small pieces of meat on which the young bird is thriving and rapidly increasing in size.

Waterfowl and Pheasants are doing well, but are mostly being reared by foster parents.

Upland Geese (6), Variegated Sheldrakes or New Zealand Paradise Ducks (4), Carolina Ducks (5), Egyptian Geese (4) Chestnut-breasted Teal (3), Black tailed Water hens (6).

There are a number of Pheasant chicks of the following species :—

Swinhoe's, Elliot's, Reeves and Golden Pheasants; Black-backed Kalig; Horned Tragopans, Sonnerat's Jungle Fowl, also hybrid Javan x Red Jungle Fowl.

The Editor regrets pressure upon his time has prevented the compiling of any general notes and news.

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2/6 must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st of any month.

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

YOUNG SCARLET TANAGER. (Dr. J. Easton Scott, Birdhurst, Woodcote, Road, Wallington . The cause of death was pneumonia and enteritis. The carcase was plump showing that the bird had been well nourished. A change in the weather from dry to wet is very trying to young birds, especially the fruit eating species.

GREY WAGTAIL. (Miss A. B. Symth, 40 Davenport Rd., Catford. S.E.) The post mortem examination showed that this bird had suffered from enteritis. The watering and swelling of the eyes and gaping-like breathing are indications that it, as well as your other birds some of which you say have gone blind are suffering from a contagious disease, commonly called catarrhal or wet roup or contagious catarrh. Have you any poultry that have been ailing in a like manner?

CHATTERING HEN LORY. (Lady Poltimore). There was chronic inflammation (cirrhosis) of the liver, which was also fatty to a slight degree.

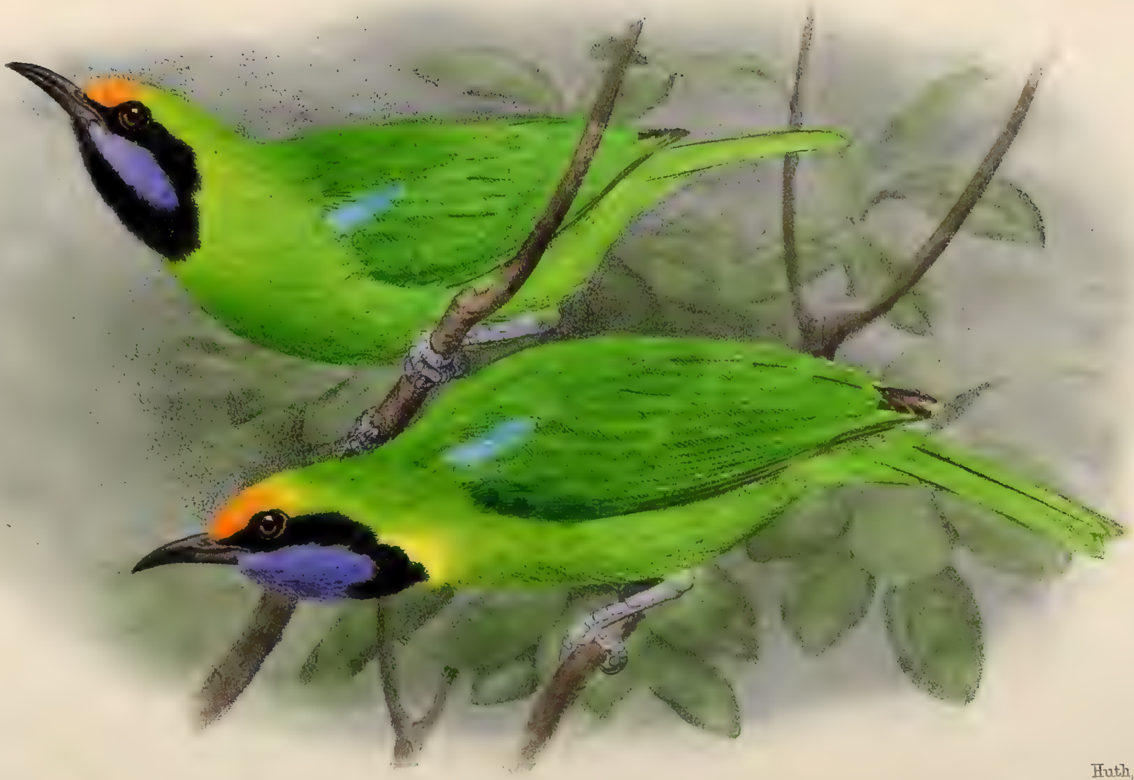
COCK RED-HEADED GOULDIAN FINCH. (G. R. Montague, Osborne Lodge, 63 Croxted Rd., West Dulwich). Cause of death, pnuemonia.

Species not recognised (♂). (The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Wighill Park, Tadcaster). The cause of death was enteritis.

BLACK GOULDIAN, (♂). (Miss Drummond, Mains of Megginch, Errol, N.B.). The bird was affected with pnuemonia and jaundice.

BROWN-WINGED BLUE GROSBEAK. (♀). (Wm. Shore Baily, Boyer House, Westbury, Wilts.). Cause of death, acute bird fever.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



H. Goodchild, del. et lith.

Huth, imp

MALABAR GREEN BULBUL (FRUITSUCKER) ♂

Chloropsis malabarica

GOLD-FRONTED GREEN BULBUL (FRUITSUCKER) ♂

Chloropsis aurifrons.

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BIRD NOTES:

—THE—

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Green Fruitsuckers

(*Chloropsis*).

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

(*Continued from Page* 97).

GOLD-FRONTED GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*Chloropsis aurifrons*): Of all the Fruitsuckers this is my favourite; it has all the qualities that tend to make the ideal cage bird or pet, for, it is confiding, readily becomes tame (one I have at the present time, which was presented to me by my friend and fellow member Major Perreau, in 1908, takes no notice when the workman enters his enclosure, 10 feet x 4 feet, to execute repairs), is long-lived, has great beauty of plumage, and is a mocking-bird; what can one want more? The bird already alluded to always takes the sting off his appetite while the dish is in my hand and if I am in a hurry and drive him off, he returns again at once and has to be pushed on one side for the food saucer to be placed on the carrier. What more need be said! he certainly objects to be handled, and he is wise, for he is so softly feathered, that when handling is really necessary, some of his lovely garment is left in the hand when he is released, no matter how careful one is. Brilliant and striking as his gorgeous plumage is, he cannot be very noticeable in his wilds, for in the enclosure, in which my Gold-front lives, is a large abutilion, which flourishes luxuriantly and amid this, he has to be searched for, often only betraying himself by movements. If such is the case in confined surroundings, how much more must it be so, when met with in its native wilds?

The plumatic distinctions between the sexes are not great, and as to what these really are, is as yet in a very parlous state. I have examined several undoubted pairs and could not distinguish any difference between the two, yet one of the pairs was in a cage, and had all but succeeded in reproducing their kind and their unfortunate owner was in the same state of uncertainty as myself. We are told that the face mask is not so extensive in the female as in the male. There was no difference in the pair referred to above, so that this feature cannot be constant—again we are told the colour of the green is of a different shade in the female, and also there is a difference in the shape of their heads—well I can only say that in the caged pair already referred to I could not detect these distinctions neither could their owner. I have examined other pairs (not in a cage) with a like result and in this unsatisfactory stage the matter remains. I have never possessed the female Gold-front, as they are not often on the market, and when such chances have occurred, the state of the exchequer has forbidden the expenditure. Several true pairs are in the possession of aviculturists at the present time, and I appeal to them to take careful observations and to record in our pages any outward sexual distinctions they can discover. Such points as these aviculture certainly ought to solve, unfortunately many of us do not take our hobby seriously enough and no proper notes are kept; relying on the memory leads to many errors and causes the cult of aviculture to be spoken slightingly of.

It would appear that the colours of the plumage increase in intensity with age, certainly this has been the case with the specimen above referred to, which was in immature plumage when it left Calcutta, and with each succeeding moult the green has got deeper and richer and more overlaid with golden bronze, while the area of turquoise blue has also increased—also the golden front now extends half-way over the crown and even the crown itself is as much gold as green, so closely and evenly are two hues intermingled.

Previous to its second moult all who saw this bird took it for the Malabar, as no blue was to be seen on the centre of the throat and even now there are some lights in which the middle of the throat appears black, but this is never the case with the lovely moustachial streaks. Judging, not only from the above specimen, but from many others I have examined, I have drawn the conclusion, that the blue throat is not assumed till the second moult—I should be glad if any of our members would confirm this or otherwise it would be an interesting point to have definitely solved—what with captive specimens and the kind assistance of members residing in India, this should be possible.

Frankly, I am disappointed in our Fruitsucker plates. While the birds and their colour areas are clearly and distinctly indicated and the drawing leaves nothing to be desired, yet they altogether fail to indicate the soft, silky, depth of the hues of their plumage—probably if only a single bird had been on each plate the result would have been better, and a pose with partially expanded wings would have revealed more of the lovely blue on the wing butts—however, they are sufficiently true, that none can be led astray, for if one had never seen a Green Fruitsucker before, they should know it for all time after examining the plate.

Now as to the figures on the plate; these two species are so much alike that one is often taken for the other, but this should not occur with our readers in the future, as *C. aurifrons* has the centre of the throat blue, like the moustachial streaks, while *C. malabaricus* has the centre of the throat black, the moustachial streaks standing out very clearly from the black mask; distinctions which cannot be overlooked when *adult specimens are compared.*

A concluding word about my favourite Gold-front; he enjoys a flight 10 x 4 feet, by from 5 to 7½ feet high, the back and one end of which are covered by the branches of a large abutilon and amid the vine like foliage he can be seen disporting himself and much of his natural demeanour gleaned—running up and down the stems, searching branches and leaves for insects, hovering to take them from the underside, and also to suck the nectar from the bell-like blossoms. This hovering is very frequently indulged in and the bird looks beautiful indeed when so seen. I do not think either pen or brush could describe it. This species is distinctly arboreal and is seldom seen upon the ground where much of its graceful deportment is lost, and, only to pick up some dropped dainty, or for the morning and evening tub, does my bird seek the ground.

Jerdon gives the range of this species as covering the whole of the sub-Himalayan region; also in Lower Bengal and Midnapore, extending into Assam, Arrakan and Burmah. It is valued as a cage bird in its native land.

In captivity it has nested on several occasions, and in Dr. Amsler's Eton aviaries has reared young to be practically fully fledged, but not to fend for themselves, and this pair of birds are again nesting at the time of writing these notes.

DESCRIPTION: Male, deep grass green above, overlaid with a sort of shot bronzy-gold; forehead and front of crown rich shining golden-orange; chin and foreneck black, surrounded with a narrow band of gold, which at once commences to merge into the green body plumage; moustachial streaks and centre of throat up to base of lower mandible smalt (hyacinth) blue; bend of the wing shining turquoise blue (this area appears to increase with age); below it is a paler grass green than the upper surface, underside of tail and wings dusky; bill dusky horn-colour, legs and feet plumbeous. Total length about 8 inches, tail $2\frac{1}{2}$.

As what I have written above is very largely applicable to the whole genus, little more than descriptions of the remaining species will be necessary.

THE MALABAR GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. malabaricus*): This species, as will be seen from reference to the plate, is similar to *C. aurifrons* but has a black throat. In size and all other respects it is similar to the preceding species, save perhaps that the golden areas are neither quite so intense nor so large.

Jerdon gives its range as: Most abundant in the forests of Malabar, in Wynaad, Coorg, and on the sides of the Neilgherries up to about 4,000 feet. It is found sparsely on the Eastern Ghats, and in some of the Central Indian forests. Its natural diet is fruit and insects, mostly the latter.

I must leave the remaining species (*C. hardwickii* and others) for another instalment.

(*To be continued*).

Nesting Notes.

BY GERALD E. RATTIGAN.

This is more of the character of a short list than notes, but later, at the end of the season I hope to send a more detailed account. At present (June 25) the following have successfully reared young:

GREEN CARDINALS (*Gubernatrix cristata*): Three young are fully reared, and the parent birds have built again and are closely incubating a clutch of four eggs.

PARROT FINCHES (*Erythrura psittacea*): Four young are fully reared and quite independent of their parents.

ZEBRA FINCHES (*Tæniopygia castanotis*): I have two pairs of this species, which between them have fully reared three youngsters--both pairs are again incubating.

SAFFRON FINCHES (*Sycalis flaveola*): Two young left the nest, but were killed soon afterwards by some other occupant of the aviary. The old birds are now incubating their second clutch this season.

CAPE SPARROWS (*Passer arcuatus*): My pair of this handsome species have nested and several clutches of eggs have been laid but, invariably devoured after about ten days by, I fancy, the cock bird. They are once more incubating and this time I hope the issue will be a successful one.

COCKATEELS (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*): These have had two nests, but in both cases the young have died in shell when about to hatch. They are incubating again.

BUDGERIGARS (*Melopsittacus undulatus*): This is the worst season I have ever had with this species, for, so far, only three young have been reared by two pairs.

GREENFINCHES (*Ligurinus chloris*): Three young in the nest, practically fully fledged, and before these notes appear should be fending for themselves, or!!

VIRGINIAN CARDINALS (*Cardinalis cardinalis*): These have built and laid a clutch of three eggs, which have been closely incubated and are due to hatch on June 27th.

BRONZE MANNIKINS (*Spermestes cucullata*): I have two pairs of this species, which have been very busy nest building but have not got as far as eggs yet.

SCARLET TANAGERS (*Rhamphocoelus brasilius*): This species' only merit in my aviary is its great beauty, for not only is it a disturbing influence, but it only plays at nesting.

GREEN SINGING-FINCHES (*Serinus icterus*): These are nesting, as also are the RED-BILLED WEAVERS (*Quelea quelea*), the latter species in the past, reared young in my aviary.

Several odd birds have paired as under :—

GREY-HEADED x CAPE SPARROWS (*Passer diffusus* x *P. arcuatus*): These have built a typical nest and are now busy incubating a clutch of eggs.

ROSY PASTOR x ENGLISH STARLING (*Pastor roseus* x *Sturnus vulgaris*): I am much interested in the doings of this pair, as if anything comes of their mating, the resulting hybrid should prove a very interesting one; at present they have got as far as eggs—a clutch of four is being closely incubated.

Except where otherwise stated, the above notes refer to one pair of birds of the respective species.

My New Aviaries.

BY MRS. M. A. SPROSTON.

In the past I have been accustomed to keep my birds indoors, in roomy cages or small portable aviaries, and with very fair success, though of course there were practically no breeding results, which I was keen on getting, but could see I must have some out-door accommodation if I was to attain my object.

At last, making up my mind to have an out-door aviary, I consulted our Editor (Mr. W. T. Page) and he came over and advised me as to site, and supplied plans to the builder, Mr. B. Hollins, and the result is a really nice erection, which we intended illustrating, but the photos went astray in the post and were too late for this issue. Mr. Page's plans were departed from in one respect ; instead of one large aviary as he advised, it has been divided into two, as I thought it would be nice to keep my British birds separate.

Unfortunately some delay occured with the erection and it was not completed till it was too late to plant any trees or bushes in the flights, thus for this summer there must must be a lack of natural cover—in the autumn this will be made good. In the meantime, we have done what we could, with coarse grasses, docks, cow-parsley, etc., to give them all the natural cover possible under the circumstances, intending to make good the deficiency in the autumn.

The aviaries have a ground area of 30 feet square,

Photos by Mrs. Sproston.

Mrs. Sproston's New Aviaries (*vide pages* 178 to 180).

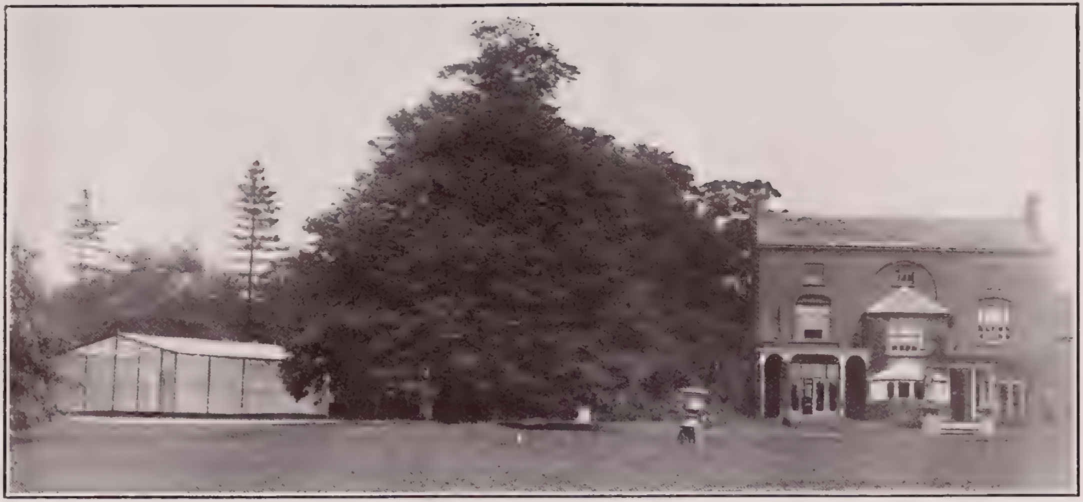

Photo by B. Hollins.

Mrs. Sproston's New Aviaries—showing their picturesque relationship to House and Grounds (*vide pages* 178 to 180).

the back 6ft. of which is given up to the shelter-shed, which is well lighted with sashes in front and half glass doors. The foundations of the aviary (eighteen inches deep) are concrete, as are also the floors of the sheds. They are not quite equally divided, the division on the left being the smaller, about 13 feet wide, and is occupied by my Foreign Finches and Waxbills; the other about 17 feet wide, is given up to the British species, and though, in consequence of a longish stay abroad, my birds were none too fit when turned out, and the weather conditions changed suddenly for the worse; they are doing well and thoroughly enjoying themselves in their new quarters, but I fear it is too late to hope for breeding results this year.

The Foreign Bird Aviary (the smaller one) which I am calling No. 1, has a shelter-shed 13 x 6 feet and a flight 24 x 13 feet, contains the following species:

WAXBILLS: Orange-cheeked, Crimson-eared (Grey), St. Helena, Avadavats, and Cordon Bleus.

FINCHES: Fire, Zebra, Spice, Ruficauda. Nonetti, Ribbon, and Grey and Green Singing-finches.

MANNIKINS: Bronze, Bengalese, Black-headed, Tricoloured, White Java Sparrows, and Silverbills.

WEAVERS: Red-, and Yellow-billed; Madagascar and Orange.

DOVES: I have only the Diamond, which is a charming species.

My GOULDIAN FINCHES died while I was away, but I have since procured another pair. The ZEBRA FINCHES seem to be building.

The British Bird Aviary (No. 2) has a shelter-shed 17 x 6 feet and a flight 24 x 17 feet and contains: Chaffinches, Redpolls, Greenfinches, Bramblefinches, Goldfinches, Linnets, Siskins, Bullfinches, and Canaries; except the latter none have attempted to build.

I should say that a concrete bath and water supply, $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, sloping from nothing at the sides to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep at the centre, provided with a plug, collar, and waste pipe leading to a drain-pipe-soakaway underneath, has been provided in each aviary and these are much enjoyed by the birds.

I hope during the year to get together a good series of birds, and hope to have some results to chronicle during next season.

In another portion of the grounds is a moderate sized aviary—an enlarged and transformed dog's shelter and exercise ground, this has been arranged for Budgerigars, Cockateels, and Lovebirds.

The general effect of the aviary is very pleasing and though in quite a prominent position in the grounds, abutting on the main lawn, it does not in any way detract therefrom, but is a picturesque acquisition.

The Life Story of a Mealy Redpoll.

(*Continued from page* 126).

TOLD BY HIMSELF.

I fear that my story will have to be curtailed. I wanted the Boss to let me say something about aviary life as seen from the inner side, and about the different races of Redpolls and their inter-relationship, and to illustrate my little article with a photo, which he has, showing my better-half sitting on her nest, but the Boss says that he did not realize until he saw my little story in print how completely unsuitable to the Magazine it was and that he thinks that I had better cut it short. There is another excellent reason why I should do so and that is that tomorrow we are to see the fulfilment of a long-standing promise and every Redpoll in the aviary is to be set free. Only to-day did the Boss discover that we had nipped off every single fruit-bud in our aviary and he has been simply boiling with indignation all day, but I hope that he will simmer down sufficiently to say good-bye nicely tomorrow. It is entirely his fault really for not letting us go earlier in the spring. I have told the youngsters all about the Northland and they are all as keen as mustard to be off, but I am not quite so wildly enthusiastic myself. You see I am getting quite an old fogey now (I have been five years in the aviary) and a bit short in the wind, so I rather dread that long and toilsome flight across the North Sea. Also there are undeniable advantages in having one's breakfast brought round punctually by Mary on a cold foggy winter's morning instead of having to forage for oneself with every probability of finding nothing better than a few tough and tasteless old plantain heads. On the whole I think I shall try to find my way back to Devon next autumn and give the old place a look up. For the present I must bid adieu to all my friends in the old country, including those members of the F.B.C., who have been introduced to me during the past five years. I wish them all and also the good old "Mag." the best of luck. Think of me sometimes and don't forget that I am the only Mealy Redpoll who ever wrote an article and perhaps the only one who ever brought up and educated two well-grown families in one season in an aviary.

Nesting of the Mealy Redpoll.

By W. E. Teschemaker, B.A.

During the past seven years I have had a good number of nests of this species built in my aviaries but, for one reason or another, until last season, the young were never fully reared. On one occasion mice devoured the eggs; on another the young (just hatched) and the adult female perished in a gale of wind, accompanied by torrents of rain, which lasted without intermission for twenty-four hours. This was rather remarkable because it was the only adult bird which I have ever lost through stress of weather when incubating and it is odd that so hardy a species as this should have furnished the single instance. This particular hen, however, was in bad feather and the nest was in a most exposed position, high up and above the top of the wall surrounding the aviary. What is still more remarkable is that this species, which cannot endure heat and travels so far north to breed, should have bred so very freely in the hottest summer which has been known in England for forty years. The real explanation, I think, of this apparent paradox is that for the first time I tried them last summer in an aviary where there were no shrubs. This species feeds its young largely on buds, and although we often see statements that such-and-such shrubs are innocuous, as a matter of fact all shrubs are more or less poisonous and this is so not only in the case of young birds but, when any adult once acquires the vice of shrub-eating as a fixed habit, it also is most surely doomed.

The Mealy Redpoll builds a very neat and compact nest, generally lined with a few feathers; the cup is very small but rather deep (see photo); the young force the walls of the nest outwards as they increase in size. As many as six and sometimes even seven eggs are found in a clutch. The same nest is said to be frequently repaired and used again, but every nest that has been built in my aviary has been a fresh one, though on one occasion the same site was used again.

The relationship of the various races of the Mealy Redpoll is a very interesting subject, but it is far too involved to discuss on the present occasion. Through the kindness of a lady who resides in Italy I received several large Redpolls of the Mealy type caught in Liguria. From private correspondence with one of our best known ornithologists I was surprised to find that it is not definitely known whether Howard Saunders was right or wrong in saying that the only race of Redpoll which breeds in the mountains of Central Europe is the Lesser.

The old pair caught in East Anglia produced three clutches (18 eggs), and reared 11 (I removed one clutch). Another pair reared three young. Mealy Redpolls do not appear to be a well fixed type, young birds of the same age showing variation of plumage, especially with regard to the marking on the upper throat. All the young birds, however, had brown rumps and a grey patch on the upper back.

The most interesting data from an avicultural point of view which I noted with regard to the young Mealies related to the age at which they became independent. My attention was drawn to this matter by the escape of one youngster from its own aviary into an adjoining one. The latter contained only a pair of Tyrants which could not possibly have fed it, yet it looked after itself, cracked hard seed and turned out as fine a specimen as its brothers and sisters. I was not satisfied with an isolated observation, thinking it might be a fluke, so I most carefully noted the age at which the youngsters from another nest commenced to eat seed and then I was bound to accept it as correct. It was far and away the most interesting observation which I made in the aviary

Nest of Mealy Redpoll.

From a Photo by E. O. Page taken in Mr. W. E. Teschemaker's Aviary in August, 1908.

last season, and has helped me to understand how it may be possible for a single pair to rear two broods within the exceedingly narrow time limit of an Arctic summer, which, be it noted, does not normally exceed seven weeks. I do not propose to state the exact age here because I think that many aviculturists would regard the statement as improbable and I have lived long enough in this world to know that there is nothing to be gained and much to be lost by making any statement which is not likely to be accepted, even though one has the very best grounds for knowing it to be correct.

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 153).

PHALACROCORACIDÆ.

This family contains the Cormorants and Snake-birds or Darters. On the Gambia river the African Snake-bird and two species of Cormorant, a large and small, are found. The two Cormorants can easily be distinguished even at a distance by the great difference in their size, one, *P. lucidus*, being about a foot longer than the other, *P. africanus*, 35 inches as against 23. The former also has a white throat and breast, but this is not very noticeable when the bird is some little way off. *P. africanus* I have never seen on the sea-coast, but all the way up the river as far as our eastern boundary it is to be commonly met with, either swimming with deeply sunk body, so that nothing but its back and long neck can be seen, or perched on some branch overhanging the water, waiting for its prey or sunning itself with one or both wings outstretched just as the Cormorants do on our coasts at home. When disturbed it will fly off with rapid and straightforward flight at no great distance above the water to some remoter resting place. The larger White-breasted Cormorant is more of a sea-coast bird, but is also found, though not in such large numbers as its relation, up the river at least as far as McCarthy Island and is also quite common along the Vintang and other mangrove-fringed creeks which open into the river near its mouth.

The Snake-bird, which at a distance can nearly always be distinguished from the Cormorants by its rufous throat, slimmer build and longer and more pointed wings, is also common along the river. This bird swims even lower in the water than the Cormorant, so that one sees nothing but its head and long wavy neck. From this it gets its popular name, which fits it well, for when in the water it looks much more like a swimming snake than a bird. On the wing they are strong fast flyers, while under water they dive and swim with open wings with extraordinary ease and rapidity, as one may frequently see in the Diving Birds' tank at the Zoo. They nest in trees overhanging or close to the water, several pairs usually building together in one place. The different shape of the beak affords a certain means of diagnosis between a Cormorant and a a Snake-bird; in the latter it is straight and sharply pointed, with a number of serrations on the edges near the tip, while in the former it is hooked at the point.

Both birds are here popularly classed together, and bear the same name, being known by Bathurst people as "Water-ducks," and as "Turoduno" and Ntchola by the Mandingoes and Joloffs respectively. They are considered good eating, especially by the Manjagos, the sailormen of the country, but personally I have never been tempted to try one.

The widely distributed Common Cormorant has also, I believe occurred in the Gambia, so that I include it in the following list of our representatives of the family.

Phalacrocorax carbo. COMMON CORMORANT.

Range. Nearly the whole Northern Hemisphere to Georgia, India, Africa, and Australia. (*H.L.*)

P. lucidus. WHITE-BREASTED CORMORANT.

Range. Tropical Africa. Cape Verde Islands. (*H.L.*)

P. africanus. LESSER AFRICAN CORMORANT. (*H.L*).

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

Plotus rufus. AFRICAN DARTER.

Range. Tropical Africa. Cape Verde Islands. (*H.L.*)

SULIDÆ.

Sula bassana. GANNET.

Range. North Atlantic. Gulf of Mexico; North Africa and the Canaries in winter. (*H.L*).

S. piscatrix. BOOBY.

Range. South Atlantic. Indian and Australian seas. Oceania. (*H.L*).

On one's way out when the steamer reaches Cape Verde it is nearly always met by a flock of Gannets, a few in full plumage, white with black-tipped wings, but the great majority in the brown attire of their youth. As we are situated just about the junction of the ranges of two species named above, I think it most probable that both may be regarded as Gambian. An odd Gannet may often be seen in Bathurst, having followed some steamer, no doubt, all the the way up the estuary.

PELECANIDÆ.

Pelecanus rufescens. Brown-backed Pelican.

Range. Tropical and North-east Africa. (*H.L.*)

These birds are common everywhere in the Gambia. They nest in trees in the native villages, many nests to a tree, in company with Marabouts, Vultures, and Crows, but spend the days fishing in parties on the river, which they leave about sunset to return home with full pouches in V-shaped flights. At night a number of nesting Pelicans make very noisy neighbours, for they are continually (particuarly on moonlight nights) clashing their beaks, flapping their wings and keeping up a constant low but very annoying whistling chorus, partly, I think vocal, and partly by their swishing wings. Their general colour is white, pure and unmarked below, but flecked or washed with brown over the greater part of the upper surface. The flights are black or dark brown, and the back, rump, flanks, and under tail-coverts are tinged with pinkish. The head bears a distinct occipital crest, the bill and legs are pale yellow, the pouch fleshy-pink. Occasionally one sees a single Pelican which looks much larger than our common species. This may be either *P. onocrotalus* or *roseus*, two closely allied species widely distributed throughout Southern Europe and Asia, their range also extending into Africa.

Pelicans are wonderfully easily reconciled to captivity. Two which were sent home from here in 1902 are still alive and flourishing in the Zoo.

Their native names are Kabbo in Mandingo, and Sorn and Njagabar in Joloff.

LARIDÆ.

GULLS and TERNS are very numerous all along our coast, for some 50 miles up the river. Unfortunately my knowledge of this family is most meagre, so that I can only give the substance of a few notes I have made from time to time and a list of the different species whose range includes this part of the world, adding short notes on their differences in size, plumage, etc., which may aid some later observer of Gambian birds. For these I am indebted to many authorities, but particularly to the British Museum Catalogue and Stark and Sclater's Birds of South Africa.

To commence with the Terns, one recognises as quite common in Bathurst at least three kinds. The best place for observing them is the Oyster Creek bridge, some three miles out along the coast, for here any day when the tide is nearly full, one may see thousands of Terns following for food the incoming tide. They wheel about with shrill cries above the water into which at frequent intervals they dive, sometimes deeply, at others just to skim the surface and snatch up thence some attractive morsel. Many, too, take advantage of the rails of the bridge as resting places, and here, as they are wonderfully fearless, one has a good chance of noting their colouration. The majority are small Terns with white foreheads, black crowns and hind-necks, grey upper and white lower surfaces. About two per cent. of the flock will be "Black Terns," (which I take to be *H. nigra*), about the same size as the others, but grey above and below and with black heads and faces. Both these have practically square tails and black beaks and legs. The remainder, some thirty per cent. of the whole, are much larger and have deeply forked tails. Their beaks and legs are are red, their wings a lovely French-grey, and the rest of the body pure white. These, which are also the commonest Tern to be seen along the beach in Bathurst, must, I think, be *Sterna fluviatilis*, while the other two with square tails must belong to the *genus*, *Hydrochelidon*, and are probably *H. hybrida* and *nigra* in young or non-breeding plumage. On the river's five mile broad estuary and for some fifty miles up, a fourth species, a larger and more heavily built Tern is common. This in full plumage is grey above, and white below, but mottled with brownish when young; it has the forehead white, the top of the head grey, and the hinder part of the crown black and bearing a slight crest. The bill yellow, and the legs black with olive-yellow plantar surfaces to the toes. These I take to be *S. maxima* or possibly *caspia*, though from some I shot at Albreda, in June, 1907, I incline to the first diagnosis, as on all of them a white line down the inner webs of the primaries was very marked. Probably both species occur here. These Terns are very strong on the wing, and fly backwards and forwards at some height above the water, at which their yellow beaks are always pointing vertically downwards at right angles to their course, and into which they frequently hurl themselves headlong after their finny prey. Both gulls and Terns are all known here by the general names BATANANA (sea-swallow) in Mandingo, and DOR in Joloff.

To be continued.

Species which have reared young in Captivity in Great Britain.

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

(*Continued from page* 168).

ERRATA: PLOCEIDÆ.—For "Whydahs, Giant (procne)"—read *Whydahs, Giant* (*Chera procne*).

For "Weavers, Black-faced (....................)"—read *Weavers, Black-fronted* (*Hyphantornis velatus*).

LATER RECORDS.

FRINGILLIDÆ.

GROSBEAKS (*Coccothraustinæ*).
Grey Finch (*Spermophila grisea*)
Black-headed Grosbeak *Hedymeles melanocephalus*).

PLOCEIDÆ.

WHYDAHS AND WEAVERS.
Grenadier Weaver (*Euplectes oryx*).

THRUSHES.—TURDIDÆ.

It will be a convenience to ignore some of the later sub-divisions of this family and to follow the lead of the Brit. Mus. Cat. and to include Thrushes, Blackbirds, Ouzels, Redstarts, Chats, Robins, Accentors, Warblers, and Mocking Birds.

THRUSHES (*Turdinæ*).
Thrush, Migratory (*Turdus migratorius*).
„ Missel (*Turdus viscivorus*).
„ Song (*Turdus musicus*).
Ground-Thrush, Orange-headed (*Geocichla citrinus*).
„ „ White-throated (*Geocichla cyanotus*).
Rock-Thrush, Pied (*Monticola saxatalis*),
Blackbird (*Turdus merula*).
„ Argentine (*Turdus fuscator*).
„ American Tricolor or Red-winged (*see Starlings*).
Ouzel, Grey-winged (*Merula boulboul*).
„ Ring* (*Turdus torquatus*).

CHATS, ROBINS, ETC.
Stone-Chat (*Pratincola rubicola*).
Redbreast (*Erithacus rubecula*).
Robin American (*vide* Migratory Thrush).
„ Blue (*Sialia sialis*)
„ Pekin (*Liothrix luteus*)—TIMELIIDÆ.
Nightingale (*Daulius luscinia*).
Sprosser (*Daulius philomela*),
Shama (*Cittocincla macroura*).
Dhyal (*Copsychus saularis*),

WARBLERS (*Sylviinæ*).
Warbler, Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).
„ Garden (*Sylvia hortensis*).

ACCENTORINÆ.

Accentor, Hedge (*Accentor modularis*).
„ Jerdon's (*Tharrhaleus jerdoni*).

MOCKING-BIRDS (*Mimidæ*).
American Mocking-Bird (*Mimus polyglottus*)
Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*).

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* Doubtful if fully reared.

PYCNONOTIDÆ.

Bulbul, Red-vented (*Pycnonotus hæmorrhous*).
„ Red-whiskered (*Otocompsa jocosa*).
„ White-eared (*Pycnonotus leucotis*).

ZOSTEROPIDÆ.

Indian White-eye (*Zosterops palpebrosa*).

TANAGRIDÆ.

Tanager, Black (*Tachyphonus melaleucus*).
„ Blue (*Tanagra episcopus*).
„ Palm (*T. palmarum*).
„ Scarlet (*Rhamphocœlus brasilius*)

LANIIDÆ.

Red-backed Shrike (*Lanius collurio*).

ARTAMIDÆ.

White-eyebrowed Wood-Swallow (*Artamus superciliosus*).

MOTACILLIDÆ

TREE PIPIT (*Anthus trivalis*).
Wagtail, Grey (*Motacilla melanope*).
„ Pied (*M. lugubris*).

MUSCICAPIDÆ.

Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*).

ICTERIDÆ.

Red-winged or Red-shouldered Meadow Starling (*Agelæus phoeniceus*).

STURNIDÆ.

Mynah, Malabar (*Poliopsar malabaricus*).
„ Pagoda (*Temenchus pagodarum*).
„ Common (*Acridotheres tristis*).
Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).
„ Andaman (*Poliopsar andamensis*).
„ Green Glossy (*Lamprocolius chalybeus*).

PARADISEIDÆ.

Regent-Bird (*Sericulus melinus*).

CORVIDAÆ

Raven (*Corvus corax*).
Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*).

ALUDIDÆ.

Lark, Black (*Melanocorypha yeltoniensis*).
„ Sky (*Alauda arvensis*).

ALCENIDÆ.

Kingfisher, Laughing (*Dacelo gigas*).

CORACIIDÆ.

Roller (*Coracias garrulus*).

UPUPIDÆ.

Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*).

CUCULIDÆ.

Guira Cuckoo (*Guira piririgua*).

MUSOPHAGIDÆ.

Fraser's Turacou (*Turacus macrorhynchus*).

Passing over intervening groups ,such as: STRIGES (Owls), ACCIPITERES (Vultures, Falcons, etc.), STEGANOPODES (Cormorant, Gannet, Pelicans), HERODIONES (Herons, Bitterns, Storks, Ibises, Spoonbills), ODONTOGLOSSÆ (Flamingos), ANSERES (Geese, Swans, Teal, Wigeon, Pochards, Ducks, Scoters, Mergansers, etc.), PTEROCLIDÆ (Grouse, Pheasants, Quail, etc.), brings us to the Parrot-tribe of which a large number have been bred in captivity.

PSITTACI.

Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).
Cockatoo, Leadbeater's (*Cacatua leadbeateri*)
Cockateel (*Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ*).
Conure, Black-headed (*Conurus nenday*).
,, Brown-throated (*C. æruginosus*).
,, Jendaya (*C. jendaya*).
,, White-eared (*Pyrrhura leucotis*).
Lory, Black (*Chalcopsittacus ater*).
,, Stella's (*Charmosyna stellæ*).
Lorikeet, Blue Mountain (*Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ*).
,, Forstein's (*T. forsteini*).
,, Mrs. Johnstone's (*T. johnstoniæ*).
,, Red-collared (*T. rubritorques*).
,, Scaly-breasted (*Psitteuteles chlorolepidotus*).
Lovebird, Black-cheeked (*Agapornis nigrigenis*).
,, Blue-winged (*vide* Passerine Parrakeet).
,, Madagascar (*Agapornis cana*).
,, Peach-faced (*A. roseicollis*).
,, Red-faced (*A. pullaria*).
Parrakeets, Adelaide (*Platycercus adaleidæ*)
,, Alexandrine (*Palæornis alexandri*)
,, Banded (*Palæornis fasciata*).
,, Barnard's (*Barnardius barnardi*).
,, Barraband's (*Polytelis barrabandi*)
,, Bengal (*Palæornis bengalensis*).
,, Blue-bonnet (*Psephotus hæmatorrhous*).
,, Blue-wing Grass (*Neophema venusta*.
,, Bourke's (*N. bourkei*).

Parrakeet, Elegant Grass (*Neophema elegans*).
" Golden-crowned (*Cyanorhamphus auriceps*).
" Great-billed Andaman (*Palæornis magnirostris*).
" King (*Aprosmictus cyanopygius*).
" Many-coloured (*Psephotus multicolor*).
" Moustache (*vide* Banded Parrakeet).
" New Zealand (*Cyanorhamphus novæ zelandiæ*).
" Passerine (*Psittacula passerina*).
" Pennant's (*Platycercus elegans*).
" Pileated (*Porphyrocephalus spurius*).
" Port Lincoln (..............................)
" Quaker (*Myopsittacus monachus*).
" Queen Alexandra (*Spathopteres alexandræ*).
" Red-capped (*vide* Pileated Parrakeet).
" Red-rumped (*Psephotus hæmatonotus*).
" Red-vented Blue-bonnet (*P. hæmatorrhous*).
" Ring-necked (*Palæornis torquata*).
" Rock Pebbler (*Polytelis melanura*).
" Rosa's (*Palæornis rosa*).
" Rosella (*Platycercus eximus*).
" " Mealy (*P. pallidiceps*).
" Stanley (*P. icterotis*),
" Turquoisine (*Neophema pulchella*),
" Yellow-rumped (*Platycercus flaveola*).
Parrot, Grey (*Pstttacus erithacus*).

I fear the above is not complete, but, I must look to members to make good any omissions.

(*To be continued*).

The Aviaries at Hartwell House, Bucks.

By Mrs. E. D. Lee.

Some time ago our energetic Editor asked me to write an article on my aviaries, but, at that time, I thought my acquaintance with my present aviaries was too short for me to describe them, their inmates or results, with any confidence. The aviaries having been tenanted for over a year, I feel I can do so more safely now.

In my present aviary I have not yet aimed at breeding birds, as I know from experience that one can only hope for successful results in small aviaries, each arranged for a single pair, or at the most two pairs, but, one pair only is much more likely to succeed. [Many species of Parrakeets will not tolerate other species in the same enclosure when breeding.—Ed.].

My present aviary was adapted from a loose-box. This was divided into five compartments, the central one much larger than the others as this was intended for Macaws; the partitions between the enclosures are close boarded for the first six feet and then wired on both sides of the uprights, thus preventing combats through the netting, injuries to feet, etc., and I have found this a very useful precaution. Across two corners of each division I have had two small cages arranged, to provide accommodation for invalids and new arrivals. The shelters are heated by hot water during the winter months. The out-door flights vary in size, but, all are ample for the birds they confine. Each flight is partly grass and partly gravel, with a small pool, formed of concrete, in each. The perches are natural branches of fruit trees —this I consider a most important point as one may have all sorts of disasters from using poisonous wood, especially with Parrots and Parrakeets, which are always engaged in cutting it up and must swallow some of it and it's essence in the process.

Division No. 1: In this I keep Canaries, Goldfinches, Cardinals and Orange Weavers. They all live very happily together and many of the Canaries are nesting but, not without some interference from the others it is true; there are, however, some young hatched out. Nest boxes are hung both in the shelter and flight, but in the latter case under cover.

Division No. 2: Here are housed Many-colour, Stanley, and Ring-necked Parrakeets, one cock of each species only, all in perfect health and brilliant plumage; also 2 pairs of Budgerigars, 1 pair Black-cheeked Lovebirds and odd cocks of Passerine (Blue-wing Lovebirds) and Orange-flanked Parrakeets. The Black-cheeks are nesting, and all, so far, have lived together in perfect harmony.

Division No. 3: This contains my lovely Macaws, of which I have five—3 Blue and Yellow, 1 Scarlet and Green and one Scarlet and Yellow—all in perfect plumage. I find Macaws most intolerant of other birds and I do not consider it right to include smaller and weaker birds with them, as before I learned this, I had to remove injured birds to other compartments. They are, however, very gentle to each other and to myself, when I enter their enclosure to feed them.

Division No. 4: In this division I have a cock Cockateel, the Red Eclectus (hen), 1 Yellow-bellied Parrakeet, 1 Roseate Cockatoo and a pair of Red-backed Amazons, these latter are the most amusing birds I ever saw, they talk incessantly a sort of gibberish, which is called Spanish! It is, however, most amusing to listen as they answer each other, laugh and cough, and behave generally like two very cheerful, garrulous, old ladies. They all seem to "hit it off," and agree very well.

Division No. 5: Here are housed 2 pairs Half-moon Parrakeets, 1 pair Moustache Parrakeets, 1 pair Jendaya Parrakeets (Golden crowned Conures), and I have just added a pair of small Javanese Cockatoos, which have quite won me over, they are such pretty little birds, and I hope they will agree with the others, which I anticipate they will do as soon as they have had time to settle down.

Treatment, Food, Etc.: During the winter months and up to the end of May they are shut up in their shelters at 5 p.m. each day, but during the other portion of the year the shelters are open day and night, and they can remain in or out as they please.

They feed on canary and white millet seeds, oats, Parrot Mixture, a varied and plentiful supply of ripe fruit, also greenfood. I find them very fond of dandelion, and I give them a good supply, as I believe it is a good tonic for them; but I am very sparing of green food to the Amazons when they have young [Have you reared any young Amazons? Even if full success was not achieved, an account of their attempt would be of general interest, and we trust you will be able to send us details. Ed.] as I find the young are not reared when the old birds give them greenfood. The Cardinals also get mealworms, of these they are very fond, and, I think, the animal food helps to keep them in condition.

I also have three or four species of Pheasants and Ornamental Ducks, and, am just commencing with Foreign Doves and Pigeons, but at present am not sufficiently acquainted with these, to write about them.

I must conclude by saying that, to those who have the time and patience, no more agreeable and interesting hobby can be found, than keeping birds in large aviaries, when they have a free flight and are not deprived of what nature intended them to have, the use of their wings. Birds so kept, amply repay their owner for the trouble taken, by their sleek and happy appearance, cheery demeanour, and interesting characteristics, which make it a real pleasure to watch them at home.

Book Notices and Reviews.

A NEW BOOK ON BIRDS AND AVIARIES.

AVIARIES AND AVIARY LIFE. By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S., with over 200 Illustrations, mostly photographic reproductions Medium 8vo., Art Linen. 12s. 6d. Net. Ashbourne: J. H. Henstock, The Avian Press.

Of late years there has been a rapid increase in the number of books devoted to the study of birds. One is almost inclined to think too many perhaps, but Mr. Page has certainly found a gap in our book-shelves that wanted filling and has done so most admirably. The work in question is one of over 250 pages literally filled with illustrations, mostly photographs, and very good ones too, principally by Messrs. E. O. Page, H. Willford, and W. E. Teschemaker. Also some very clever drawings by Mr. Goodchild. The actual number of illustrations is 215 which will give some idea of the scope of the work.

Chapter II. is entirely devoted to the construction of aviaries. Most of the plans and illustrations are of structures far beyond the dreams of most of us aviculturists, but several are described which can be constructed for an outlay of only a few pounds.

In many cases a ground plan is given which is a great help in the designing of an out-door aviary. On Page 53 are shown some very ingenious food-carriers, designed by the author to be mouse proof; these can be made to hold any number of receptacles for seed or soft-food.

Mr. Page also gives some very useful recipes for soft-food mixtures for different varieties of soft-billed birds.

In fact the whole question of food, which after all is a vital one, is thoroughly gone into.

The author treats separately with an enormous number of birds, so that either a beginner or an "old hand" can, on getting any bird he knows little how to cater for, simply refer to the index and then turn to the page, where exact details of food, treatment and peculiarites of the bird are fully given. By the way although every bird from a Fruit-sucker to a Flamingo is discussed there is no mention of any of the *Picidae*, although by a coincidence, the publisher has adorned the title-page with a drawing of a Woodpecker.

The amount of research work that Mr. Page must have done to make such a complete text-book as this is, must have been prodigious.

My only regret is that the book was not written several years ago, when it might have saved me many disappointments; but however long one may have kept birds and however much experience one may have had, Mr. Page's book will always be useful and one might say necessary, as well as extremely interesting.

Even authors have their little weaknesses, and the author of this work is no exception. To Mr. Page the Grey-winged Ouzel is what an only child is to its parents.

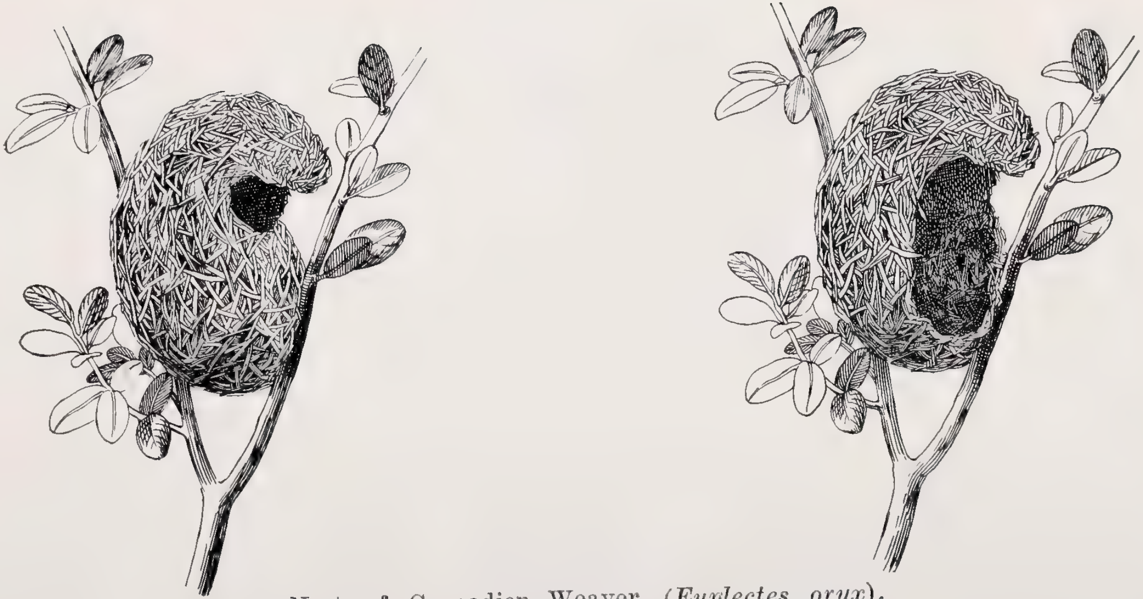
When he gets to this bird, he, to use a vulgarism "spreads himself" and one wishes that he had had room to do so more often.

It is to Mr. Page that the honour belongs of being the first to breed these birds in captivity: and his account of this interesting event is very entertainingly told.

The following table of Contents will further indicate the comprehensive character of the work, Chapter I.- The Cult of Bird-keeping; II. Aviaries. Birdrooms and Cages; III Insectile Mixtures, Live food, Sops, etc; IV. Keeping and breeding Finches (*Fringillidæ and Ploceidæ*): V.—Thrushes (*Turdidæ*); VI.—Babbling Thrushes, Babblers and Bulbuls; VII. -Flycatchers (*Muscicapidæ*); VIII. —Honey-suckers, Flowerpeckers, White-eyes, Creepers, Sunbirds and Sugarbirds; IX.—Tanagers and Manakins; X. Wood-swallows, Starlings, Mynahs, and Troupials; XI.- -Barbets, Toucans and Hornbills; XII. —Birds of Paradise, Crows, Magpies, Jays, Rollers and Drongos; XIII.--PSITTACI; Lorries, Parrots Macaws, Cockatoos, Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc; XIV.—Doves and Pigeons; and XV.—The Etceteras. There is also a separate index for names of birds and genera and species.

"Aviaries and Aviary Life" is certainly a book which every bird-lover and bird-keeper, and the two are the same, should have; not simply to complete his collection of ornithological works but to have by him always, to be referred to often. It is quite one of the best of its kind that we have read for a long time. "INCA."

The "CONDOR," the Journal of the Cooper Ornithological Club, for May—June, is of more than usual interest. The larger portion of the issue is occupied by a most valuable paper by Edward E. Warren, on "Some North-Central Colorado Bird Notes," collected during an extended wagon trip. The article is illustrated by a map and twelve photos by the Author; the latter include Nests of Cliff Swallows; Nest of White-Crowned Sparrow; Young Mountain Plover; Young Three-toed Woodpeckers; Western Nighthawks (3); etc.—all are excellent. The article is not only of interest to Western ornithologists, but to bird lovers and keepers the wide world over. The issue also contains a paper, "An Afternoon's Field Notes," by J. Grinnell, which is also of great interest—some thirty species are named, and the notes, illuminating many phases of their life history, are also demonstrative of the thoroughness and ability of this well known ornithologist. General Notes, Reviews, Club Minutes, etc., complete a number of exceptional interest.



Nest of Grenadier Weaver (*Euplectes oryx*).

1. The nest as built and used for incubation and rearing of young.
2. The same nest with front torn out, to allow of the emergence of the young.

By H. Goodchild from rough sketches by R. de Quincey Quincey, sen.

Editorial.

NESTING NOTES: Knowing the general interest taken in nesting results, we place, and give these precedence in our monthly notes, and greatly desire that more members would send in periodical records of the doings of their birds :—

NEW GUINEA RIFLE BIRD : Mr. E. J. Brook has a second disappointment with this species, the eggs referred to in our last issue, have proved infertile—members will probably recall that there was a similar issue in 1911, yet apparently, the birds are neither lacking in vigour, nor general fitness.

MALABAR MYNAHS (*Poliopsar malabaricus*). This species have hatched out two young in a Beplesch nest-box in Dr. P. Gosse's Beaulieu aviaries, and the young birds are doing well.

GRASSFINCHES, ETC.: Mr. Herbert Bright in his Liverpool aviaries, which we hope to figure in a near issue, has the following species feeding young, or young on the wing : Diamond Finches, Red-headed Finches, Zebra Finches, also Masked and Ruficauda Finches ; while Gouldian, Pectoral and Cuban Finches ; Orange-breasted Waxbills ; Bronze and Magpie Mannikins and Diamond Doves are incubating and other species, including Pintail Nonpareils are building. In another aviary there are a number of young Budgerigars and Cockateels on the wing. The aviaries were not finished till quite late in the season, and the early sunny period was missed.

GRENADIER WEAVERS (*Euplectes oryx*). In Mr. R. De Quincey's aviaries at Chiselhurst this species has successfully reared two young, and the parent birds are now nesting again—details etc., will be given later by Mr. De Quincey, but we wish to draw attention to an interesting fact concerning the emergence of the young from the nest, the young did not emerge from the ordinary entrance hole to the nest, but the male tore out the front of the nest, and thus let the young out- see illustration opposite—the nest was placed amid a group of rhododendrons which afforded excellent shelter for the young birds. It will be of great interest to know whether the same procedure occurs before the young leave the nest, if a second brood be reared. We do not know of any previous record of the breeding of this species in Great Britain.

SILVER-EARED MESIA (*Mesia argentauris*). In the same aviaries three young Mesias were hatched out, two of which were killed almost at once by Rufous-necked Weavers (these were at once removed to another aviary), the other lived for ten days and its death was very unexpected as all was apparently going well the previous day—the same pair are now incubating another clutch.

PALM TANAGERS (*Tanagra palmarum*): At last after many dissappointing failures, a young bird of this species has been fully reared in the aviaries of Lady Edith Douglas Pennant. It was fending for itself on June 23rd. A detailed account will appear later.

BICHENO'S AND CUBAN FINCHES: In addition to results already announced Mr. W. Shore-Baily, has young of the above species on the wing and doing well. Also Violet, Bronze-wing, Brush Bronze-wing and Diamond Doves all but ready to leave the nest.

ORNAMENTAL FINCHES: Mr. G. E. Haggie reports that he has the following young on the wing: 6 Zebra Finches, 2 Cordon Bleus, 1 Grey x Green Singing-finch. It will be of interest to state that the aviary (medium size—vide Vol. II., N.S.) contains some 50 Waxbills and Finches. Gouldians and several other species are nesting. In the Parrakeet avairy there are 11 young Budgerigars and 5 Cockateels on the wing.

SINGING FINCH X LINNET HYBRID; A Grey Singing Finch and Linnet have mated in Miss E. F. Chawner's aviary, and are steadily incubating a clutch of five eggs.

SILVERBILL x BENGALESE HYBRIDS: A correspondent informs us he has two young birds of this cross fully reared—one is in appearance just an ordinary Silverbill but the other clearly shows its dual parentage – they have been bred in a cage.

RED-RUMP PARRAKEETS; The demeanour of this species is well known to be pugnacious and the disposition of the species towards each other when young are being fed very uncertain. Four young were hatched out in Mrs. C. H. Read's aviary and the hen would not let the cock go near them, neither would she feed them and one of the young died—the hen was removed, and the cock bird reared the other three, which are now fending for themselves. Cockateels have five young.

PARRAKEETS; In Mr. J. Smith's aviaries at Kendal, two young Stanley and one Many-colour, are on the wing and doing well.

In my own aviary the Grey Finch (*Spermophila grisea*), has fully reared two young birds, which are now fending for themselves, of which, an article will appear in a near issue. Many nests have been spoiled by gales of wind and rain, though most of the young hatched out have been fully reared. A second brood of Grey-winged Ouzels are being fed and all but ready to leave the nest. Cordon Bleus, Cutthroats, Grey Finches (second nest); Green Singing Finches and Orange-breasted Waxbills are all feeding young—in some cases the young are on the wing.

In Mr. Suggitt's aviaries many nests have been spoiled by the weather, but a clutch of eggs, from a cross of some interest—Grey-winged Ouzel x Argentine Blackbird—is being steadily incubated. It would appear from recent experience, that several species of foreign *Turdidæ* could be perpetuated in English aviaries with but little trouble.

Mrs. C. N. Davidson has been getting good results from her Madagascar Lovebirds, which in many aviaries refuse to attempt to reproduce their kind. The pair in question have sat continuously since September 1911, being removed to another aviary did not cause a break. Black-cheeked Lovebirds, and Zebra Finches also have young on the wing. Spice Finches, Avadavats, and cross mated Silverbill x Bronze Mannikin are nesting.

Photos of Aviary Episodes: We would remind members that photos of natural nests, whether built in living bushes or dead branches, would be of general interest, and we shall be glad to reproduce such in *Bird Notes*. Such photos should be sharp, include the nest entrance, and be as contrasty as possible to give good results. We would also, once more, remind members of the importance of keeping an aviary "Log-book" (one for each aviary is best), many fail to do this, and for the lack of this quite a number of interesting episodes are spoiled annually by incomplete detail, or as later events show, *incorrect* facts owing to having to record from memory alone.

Zoo Meetings: We were very unfortunate in having a wet day for the last meeting, but those present spent an interesting time in spite of the wet. Another of these meetings will be held on Friday, July 26th. We shall be pleased to meet members at 11 a.m. or 2-30 p.m.—*rendezvous*, Small

Birds' House. It is hoped that there will be a representative gathering, and so that there may be some discussion and a private place arranged for tea, it is earnestly requested that those able to attend will send notice of same to the Hon. Secretary of the Social Committee, Mr. W. T. Rogers, on the post cards which are distributed with this issue.

BLACK HEADED GROSBEAK (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*). Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has young of this species fending for themselves (an article will appear in a near issue). We do not know of any previous instance of this species having reared young in captivity; if any member knows of any such success will they please send us details at once ?

A BEGINNER'S FIRST SEASON: From a letter by a new member, we extract the following and congratulate Mr. Curry on his auspicious beginning in aviculture :—" I have only a small aviary, and only started this year, but so far, I have bred the Gouldian Finch (five young ones fully reared) and the same birds are again sitting: Zebra Finches, have reared eighteen young from two pairs: Silverbills have four young ones: Grey Singing-finches have reared two broods: I had hoped for some young Waxbills, but I am afraid the young Zebra Finches disturbed them."

WHITE CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*): This is a very handsome species, and specimens are to be seen, at the present time, in the Western Aviary of the London Zoo. Mr. Edward E. Warren met with this species in North-central Colorado, and he records the following extract in The "Condor," May—June, 1912 :—

" First seen at Chambers Lake, and was rather common at the Cameron Pass Camp. It was common about Mt. Zirkel, where it ranged at least to timberline. July 11th, we found a nest containing four eggs in a scrubby spruce at an altitude of 10,575 feet, just below timberline. An odd thing about this nest was that on the day before, we had set a mouse trap on the ground almost under the nest and tied the marker to the bush over it. The bird must have flushed then without being noticed, or else was not sitting, and the nest itself was well hidden. She was in the nest and flew off the day we discovered it. The nest was about two feet above the ground, and built mostly of fine grass. The species was noted at Buffalo Pass saw mill, where it was "quite tame and familiar, and was also at Buffalo Pass. Seen several miles south of Yampa, at Rock Creek, on the Gore Pass road, east of Coulter, and on Vasquez Creek."

An excellent photo-reproduction of the nest accompanied the above notes.

EXCHANGES BETWEEN MEMBERS: As will be gathered from the various published notes, our members have met with a fair amount of success. To assist members to perpetuate species in English aviaries, space will be given under "Bird Market" for exchanges between members of *aviary bred* birds, at a charge of one penny for each species named in the notice, with a minimum charge of three-pence, which barely covers the cost of printing. We hope members will avail themselves of this and thus prevent inbreeding among their birds.

Correspondence.

RE LIST OF SPECIES WHICH HAVE BRED IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Sir,—I was much interested in your List of Species which have reared young in Great Britain.

I note that the Common Grey African Waxbill does not appear to have been bred, yet I seem to have some recollection that it has been recorded that one of our members bred this bird in 1903 or 4. However you may soon get to know this.

A pair of Grey Waxbills in my Avairy have already built one nest, laid three eggs which they forsook, but quickly building again they are now brooding a second lot.

I will send details later.

ERNEST SPRANKLING.

June 21st. 1912. [It is very probable this species has been bred, but there is no record that we know of, though there are several recorded instances of its having successfully crossed with the St. Helena Waxbill. We venture to hope members will take the interest and trouble to check the list and report any omissions at once. ED.]

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st. of any month.

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of the F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

---

2 CANARIES. (W. R. Bonniwell, North Kensington, W.) The cause of death was bird fever and no doubt you will lose the whole of the inmates of your bird-room unless you take active and prompt precautions to strictly isolate each bird and *to thoroughly cleanse* and well disinfect your cages, feeding utensils, perches, etc., with a 5 per cent. solution of lysol (one ounce to the pint).

DIAMOND SPARROW. (The Hon. and Rev. Canon F. S. Dutton, Fairford). Cause of death, impaction of rectum or constipation. An aperient, such as a drop or two of castor oil, in the beak, or about 20 grains of Epsom Salts in half an ounce of drinking water, timely administered, might have saved the little creatures life.

ORANGE-CHEEK WAXBILL. (M. J. Flannery, Nenagh*).* Cause of death, pneumonia.

HOODED SISKINS (♂ & ♀). (The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Tadcaster). Cause of death, pneumonia. This is a climatic disease and although British birds are liable to contract it when kept in confinement, Foreign birds are more susceptible to it.

GOULDIAN FINCH (♂). (Mrs. Longdon, Guildford). Cause of death pneumonia, which extensively involved both lungs and must have been in its system at the time of purchase. Highly coloured birds are more liable to this disease than dull plumaged birds.

PENNANT PARRAKEET (♂). (Lady Webster, Battle, Sussex). This bird was very plump. The cause of death was acute enteritis, Birds frequently die when in convulsion arising from such a malady or in fact, from any infective malady.

WHITE JAVA SPARROW. (A. J. C. Lowe, Nottingham). This bird died from acute hepatitis or inflammation of the liver.

ORANGE CHEEK WAXBILL (♂). *(*G. E. Haggie, Oxford). Cause of death, heart failure.

CANARY (♂). (W. Edmunds, Langton Matravers). Cause of death, septicaemia and pneumonia.

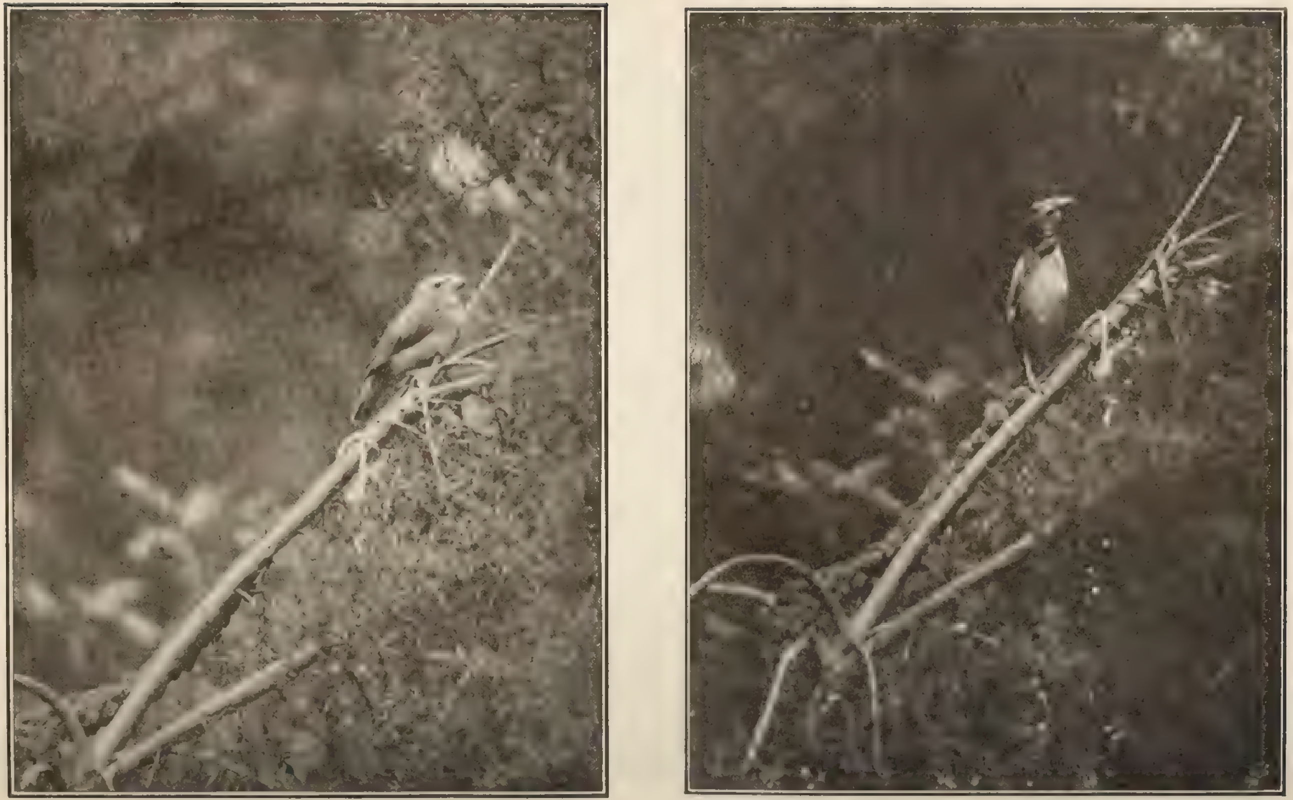
GOULDIAN FINCH (♂). (Mrs. J. C. A. Longdon). Cause of death, pneumonia.

RING-NECKED PARRAKEET. (T. Miller. Belgrave Rd. S.W.) Cause of death, inflammation of liver.

GREY GROSBEAK. (W. Shore Bailey, Westbury, Wilts.*)* Cause of death, pneumonia.

Answered by post—Mrs. Bamfylde (2*)*, Richard Hoffmann, Mrs. Henderson, Miss Chawner. Mrs. Turner-Turner (3), Miss Drummond, W. T. Lewis.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

Photos by R. de Quincey Quincey.

Grenadier Weavers in nestling plumage, reared in the aviary of R. S. de Quincey Quincey.

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BIRD NOTES:

—THE—

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Breeding of the Grenadier Weaver

(*Euplectes oryx*).

BY R. S. DE QUINCEY QUINCEY.

I have had these birds since May, 1909, but this year (1912) is the first that I have really been successful with them. In 1909 the cock built a nest, in which the hen laid two blue eggs, of the same size, colour and shape as those of the Hedge Accentor.

Later, she laid two eggs on the ground, but there was no attempt at incubation on either occasion, and the last clutch were in too exposed a position.

In 1910 and 1911 the cock built numerous nests, but nothing further has happened, so that this year, when he had built five nests, I thought that they were still going on in their old way, and that they would never get any further. True, it was noticed that each time anyone passed the aviary, the hen flew out of one of the nests, but we thought nothing of that as she had acted similarly in previous years, thus no interest was taken until June 6th, when the cock began to pull out the front of the nest (*see plate*), and on June 7th two young birds flew. They are exactly similar to the cock when out of colour, the hen being a little darker than the cock or the young ones.

At first both parents fed them but on 23rd June it was noticed that the hen only did so. On the 25th, instead of roosting in the gorse with their parents, they slept in the shelter. On the 30th the young were observed picking at millet sprays, and generally hunting for food on the ground, while the parents were not seen feeding them at all, and on July 2nd they were eating heartily of both canary and millet seeds. The male parent bird drove the apparent young cock about until he got him up to a newly commenced nest in a young silver birch, and there he taught the youngster how to weave and continue building the nest. In fact, he acted as a teacher, and very thoroughly, too, occasionally inspecting the nest and pulling it about and then making the youngster go on again with his building. On (July 11th all the nests were examined and two eggs were found in the nest below the one in which the first brood was reared. On the 12th the hen did not sit, but on 14th was observed carrying in feathers; this was the first piece of building that she had done, but whether she put these feathers under or over the eggs I cannot say. On the 15th, probably the first day of incubation, the hen flew out of the nest at 7-30 p.m., and on the 16th it was apparent that they had begun to incubate in real earnest, though the hen flew out when anyone passed. She was very quick, and could hardly be seen when she left the nest; evidently she was trying to hide her movements and not attract attention to the nest.

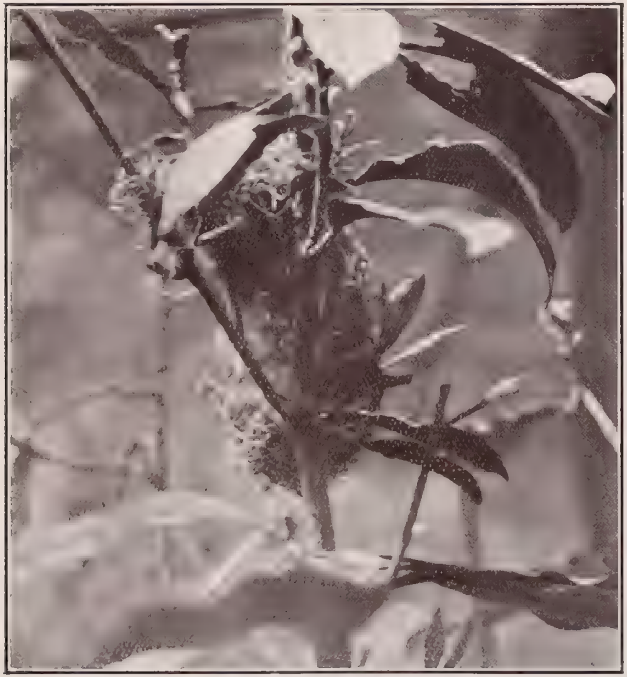
The cock used to sit on guard above the nest (*see photo*). I do not doubt that if we had been inquisitive they would never have reared their young, but fortunately no one else knew. On the 26th everything pointed to the young being hatched for the hen became friendly and asked for mealworms, while the cock became subdued and ceased to chase the other two young ones (which are going to be removed very shortly). On August 3rd I looked in with the aid of a small mirror, and saw two young ones partly fledged and getting on nicely. I should say they were then about 8 days old.

In both broods until the young birds came out of the nest, the hen only fed, but, in the first brood, when they came out they were fed by both parents. The hen only sat while the cock remained on guard above the nest. They have for food, canary and millet seed, bread and milk and soft food, while the hen alone is allowed mealworms, since the cock nearly murders the first brood if he gets one by mistake

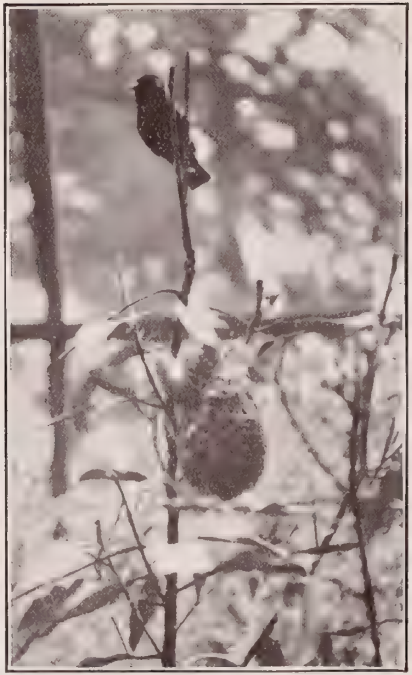
Aviary Notes and 1912 Breeding Results

By R. S. de Quincey Quincey.

My first aviary was a wooden structure about 9 by 5 feet, with two thirds of the front and one end, wire. This was built in 1904, but in 1907, a wire run was added in



Nest of Grenadier Weaver as torn open by the male to allow the young to emerge.



Nest of Grenadier Weaver as built, and used during incubation and rearing of young.

Photos by R. de Quincey Quincey.

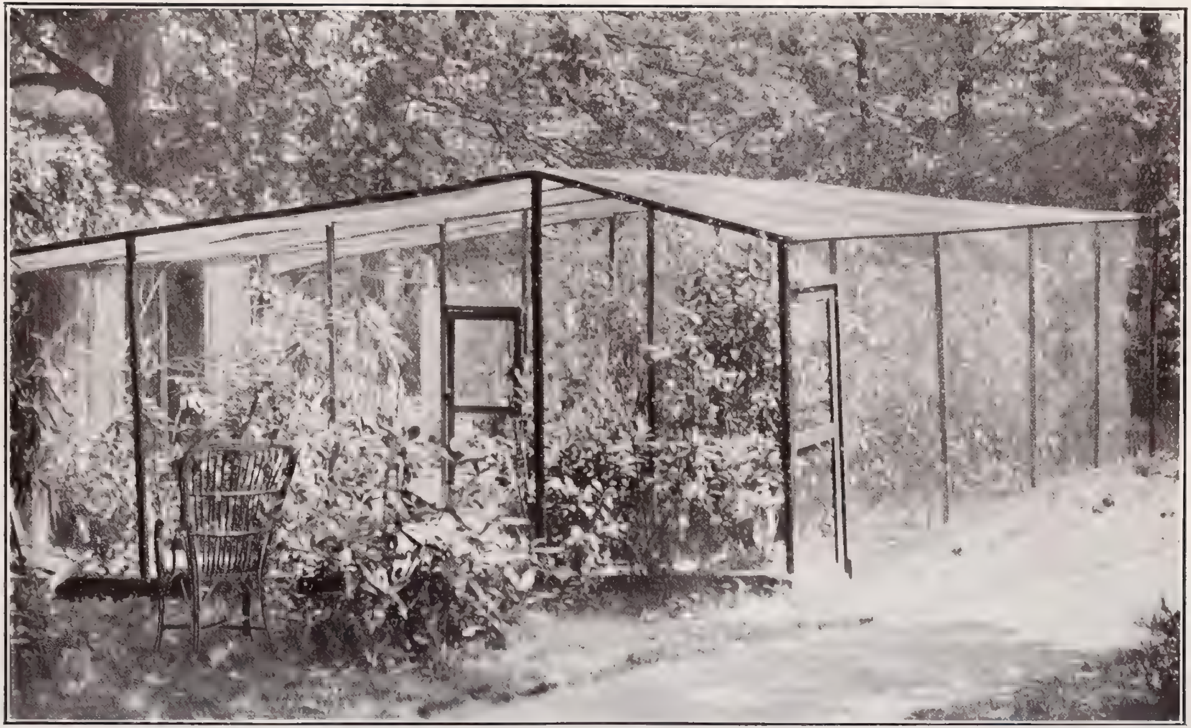


Photo by R. de Quincey Quincey.

The Lower Aviaries at Inglewood, Chislehurst, Kent.

front, 18 by 10 feet, which has since been divided into two, the larger half being tenanted by a pair of Redrump Parrakeets, a pair of Cockateels, and one cock Madagascar, Comoro, and Black-headed Weavers; in the other division are three Red-Collared Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*), two cocks (one of which has now been removed to a cage) and one, the sex of which we cannot determine since its size and the shape at its bill point to its being a hen, while its demeanour is rather masculine.

The Cockateels were breeding, having reared three young ones, this year but the Lorikeets burrowed through, under the partition, and killed the young ones.

I also had a single coach-house, which made a splendid aviary, being so warm and free from draught. In this I kept finches; but in 1911, this was needed as part of a garage, so I was forced to remove them to other quarters.

At length a sunny and sheltered clump of Rhododendrons, about 12 feet high and 40 feet across (or rather more) was chosen, but we could not decide whether we should have one large aviary or several long flights. We decided upon the latter and I am not at all sorry that we did so since in these a far more varied collection can be kept. The rhododendrons were cut down to within five to six feet but this summer we divided the second one into two of 15 x 15 feet.

At the present time we are making a fourth, 30 by 10 feet, with a shelter 10 by 6 feet, for the young Grassfinches, which we have bred this year, and also the young Grenadier Weavers.

A birdroom 18 x 8 feet made of "Kalsite," pebble-dashed on the outside and plastered on the inside, with a window 5 x 14 feet along the front, is also being built, as winter quarters for most of the birds. It is 7 feet high at the back and 9 at the front, letting in as much sun as pospossible.

I may here say that all these aviaries are facing south-west

Outside the birdroom, adjoining the aviary we are now making, I am hoping to build before long my last aviary about 24 x 30 feet, which will complete the range.

Nesting Notes: In the first aviary I started this year with: Three cock (one Red-head) and six hen (two Red-head) Gouldian Finches; two cock and one hen Ruficauda Finches; pairs each of Parson Finches; Masked and Long-tailed Grassfinches. So far we have only lost two hens, Black-headed Gouldian and Ruficauda Finches. The following young are now on the wing, and mostly fending for themselves: Three Long-tailed Grassfinches, twelve Gouldian Finches from three pairs, and two pairs are again engaged in the duties of incubation.

The Parson Finches have built two nests, but have not, so far as I know, got as far as eggs yet; though the hen is now sitting very tight, on something or nothing!

The Masked Grassfinches have as is generally the case merely played at nest building. We have never before been able to keep Gouldians alive for more than two months, but this year I think we have done very well, and I am of the opinion that this is due partly to the excellent condition in which they were brought over, but chiefly to the use of boiled water. I now consider either this or rainwater to be almost a necessity, since they have all done so much better on it. It was recommended to us by the dealer from whom we got them, and I believe that it is one of the things practically necessary for the keeping of Gouldians in perfect health and condition, since the lime in the liquid state seems to upset them terribly. They have soft food, bread and milk (which they hardly touch), live ants' eggs, canary and millet, and the boiled water; also cuttle-fish bone, ground oyster grit and flowering grass.

In the front half of the second aviary are the Grenadier Weavers, and in the back part are a pair of Canaries, whose nest I cannot discover; one pair of Blue-winged Sivas (*Siva cyanopteura*) recently brought over by Mr. Frost, are in very poor feather, though they have and are still improving wonderfully, and I have reason to hope and believe that they are a true pair,though at present I cannot be sure, as they are young birds; and lastly a pair of Silver-eared Mesias (*Mesia argentauris*), which have made two good attempts at rearing young this year, failing on both occasions, though coming very near to success; they are now incubating their third clutch. In their first attempt, two of the young were killed by a Rufous-necked Weaver, while the third, which I believe, would have been fully reared, was killed by the cock Grenadier Weaver, which broke its upper mandible when 12 days old; for at that time it was beginning to feather. Incubation lasted thirteen days, and the eggs were white, spotted with dull red at the broader end. The second brood was killed by the cock giving the young ones *whole* meal-worms; I am now accustoming the parents to live ants' "eggs" and house-fly larvæ (a very small gentle), which they are getting to like much more than they did at first Both they and the Sivas are very fond of fruit and bread-and-milk, taking a great deal of both, but they do not trouble to catch their own flies, of which there are plenty constantly in the aviary.

In conclusion they are delightfully tame and interesting birds, and I am hoping that the Mesias will be quite successful in this, their third attempt.

Birds of Gambia.

BY E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 186).

LARIDÆ.

Hydrochelidon leucoptera. WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN.

Range. Central and South Europe to Central Asia and China. Australia, New Zealand, Africa, in winter (*H.L.*)

Length, 9½ inches.

H. hybrida. WHISKERED TERN.

Range. South-west, Central, and South Europe to China, Malaya, Australia, Africa. (*H.L.*)

Length, 11½ inches.

H. nigra. BLACK TERN.

Range. Europe, Central Asia, Africa in winter. (*H.L*).

Length, 10 inches.

The differential points between the *genera Hydrochelidon* and *Sterna* are:

Hydrochelidon. Bill and head the same length. Tail scarcely forked. Webs of toes deeply indented.

Sterna. Bill longer than head. Tail deeply forked. Webs well developed.

Sterna minuta. LITTLE TERN.

Range. Europe; Mediterranean; Central Asia; North India; Java; and South Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

Length 9 inches. Crown black; forehead white; tail white; bill yellow; legs orange; 26 remiges.

S. antillarum. LEAST TERN.

Range. Temperate and Tropical North America to Central America; West Indies; West Africa. (*H.L.*)

Length 9 inches. Like *minuta,* but the pearly colour of the mantle extends to the tail.

S. fluviatilis. COMMON TERN.

Range. Both sides of the Atlantic; Indian and African coasts in winter; Brazil, winter (*H.L.*)

Length 13½ inches. Crown black; head white; tail white and grey; bill red, black at tip; legs red. 29 remiges.

S. macrura. ARCTIC TERN.

Range. Arctic regions. Temperate Europe and North America; Africa; and South America in winter. (*H.L.*)

Length 15 inches. Crown black; head grey; primaries with a narrow grey band on the inner webs. Otherwise like *fluviatilis.*

S. dougalli. ROSEATE TERN.

Range. Coasts and islands of Western Europe; Africa; Asia; and Australia; Eastern North America; West Indies. (*H.L.*)

Length 16½ inches. Breast rosy; bill black; legs red.

S. cantiaca. SANDWICH TERN.

Range. West and Central Europe; Africa; North-west India; Eastern North America; West Indies in winter. (*H.L.*)

Length 15½ inches. Head black; tail white; bill black with yellow tip; legs black.

S. caspia. CASPIAN TERN.

Range. Temperate Europe and Asia, Africa, Malayasia, Australia, New Zealand. (*H.L.*)

Length 20 inches. Head black; tail white; primaries the same on both webs, that is, with no white stripe on the inner webs; bill red; legs black. 33 remiges.

S. maxima. ROYAL TERN.

Range. North America and West Indies, Brazil and West Africa in winter. (*H.L.*)

Length 18 to 20 inches. Like *caspia,* but the primaries have a white stripe on the inner webs; bill orange yellow.

S. anaestheta. SMALLER SOOTY TERN.

Range. West Indies, Gulf of Mexico, African and Indian seas to China, Japan, Moluccas, North Australia and the Pacific Islands. (*H.L.*)

Length 14 inches. Crown black; nape white; two of the toes only webbed to the claw.

S. fuliginosa. SOOTY TERN.

Range. Tropical and Juxta-tropical seas of the world. (*H.L.*)

Length 16 inches. Crown and nape black; all three toes webbed to the tip. These notes on the plumage refer in all cases to the adult; there are great variations at different ages and seasons.

Anous stolidus. NODDY.

Range. Tropical and Juxta-tropical seas of the world. *(H.L.)*

The Noddy is so purely an oceanic bird that perhaps I ought not to as much as mention its name even as a possible Gambian bird.

Closely allied to the true Terns are the Skimmers, notable for their paper-knife-like bills with elongated lower mandibles.

Rhynchops flavirostris. RED-BEAKED SKIMMER.

Range. Africa, north to the Red Sea and Egypt. *(H.L).*

The Skimmer is known to occur in the Gambia, but I have never yet to my knowledge seen it here, though I once was shown a skin obtained in the neighbouring Casamance River.

Of the true Gulls the four following species inhabit the Gambia.

Larus cachinnans. YELLOW-LEGGED HERRING GULL.

Range. South Europe, Black Sea east to Lake Baikal; North-west India to Bombay; Red Sea; West Africa in winter. *(H.L).*

This is a geographical race of the Herring Gull *(L. argentatus)*. In the adult the mantle is grey, the head white or spotted with grey; below white.

L. fuscus. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.

Range. Western Europe to the River Dwina, Canaries, West Africa and Red Sea in winter. *(H.L.)*

The mantle is grey, the head white. Neither of these species have any black or grey on the head; in the two following, the head is brownish-black or grey in summer, and traces of this usually remain through the winter.

L. ridibundus. LAUGHING GULL.

Range. Europe and Asia; Africa, Indian Ocean, China to Malaya in winter. *(H.L.)*

Mantle pale grey in the adult; head brownish black; first quil white with black edges and tip.

L. cirrhocephalus. GREY-CAPPED GULL.

Range. South America, Africa. *(H.L.)*

Among the Gulls to be seen on the beach at Bathurst from about November to May one recognises three different kinds. (1) the largest is pure white when adult with grey and black wings, the tips of the flights being barred with black and white, and has a pale yellow bill and legs. When young (the great majority of those one sees) the plumage is heavily mottled all over with brown. This I take to be *L. cachinnans.* (2) smaller, French grey in colour with a French grey face and pink legs. (3) about the same size as the last, grey above and white below and with a black eye-streak. These I imagine to be *L. cirrhocephalus* and *ridibundus* respectively, the former being quite the commonest of our Gulls and to be seen any day nearly all the year round. *L. fuscus,* the Lesser Black-backed Gull is much less common than any of the others.

STERCORARIIDÆ

I think I have occasionally seen a single Skua off Bathurst. If so it must have been of the two following, which can be distinguished by their sizes and shape of their tails. Richardson's Skua is the smaller, 18 inches in length, and has a pointed tail, while the length of the other species is 21 inches and its tail more rounded.

Stercorarius crepidatus. RICHARDSON'S SKUA.

Range. Circumpolar and Sub-Arctic Regions. African, Indian, and Australian Seas; South Brazil in winter. (*H.L*).

S. pomatorhinus. POMATORHINE SKUA.

Range. Arctic Regions; Australian, African, and South American Seas in winter. (*H.L.*)

PROCELLARIIDÆ

Of this large family of maritime birds my knowledge is practically nil and I cannot even do for them the little I have attempted for the Gulls, but for the sake of completeness give a list of those, within the range of which the Gambia is geographically included. Their haunt, too, being the open ocean, their inclusion in our avifauna (if indeed they should be included at all) would depend on chance visitors.

Procellaria pelagica. STORM-PETREL.

Range. North Atlantic Ocean to West Africa. Western Mediterranean. (*H.L.*)

P. leucorrhoa. FORK-TAILED PETREL.

Range. Northern seas of both hemispheres. (*H.L*)

P. castro. CANARIAN FORK-TAILED PETREL.

Range. Cape Verde Islands. South Atlantic to Madeira; Galapagos Islands; Hawaii. (*H.L.*)

Oceanites oceanica. WILSON'S PETREL.

Range. Atlantic and Indian Oceans to the Antarctic, Australia and New Zealand. (*H.L.*)

Fregetta melanogaster. DUSKY-VENTED PETREL.

Range. Southern Oceans to North Atlantic. (*H.L.*)

Puffinus gravis. GREATER SHEARWATER.

Range. Atlantic Ocean south to Cape Seas; Falklands. (*H.L.*)

P. kuhli. MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER.

Range. Mediterranean; Atlantic south to Kerguelen I. (*H.L.*)

P. *obscurus.* DUSKY SHEARWATER.

Range. Tropical and Sub-tropical Oceans. (*H.L.*)

P. assimilis. ALLIED SHEARWATER.

Range. Australia; Atlantic north to Madeira. (*H.L.*)

P. griseus. SOOTY SHEARWATER.

Range. Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; south to Australia and Magellan Straits. (*H.L.*)

Oestrelata mollis. SOFT-PLUMAGED PETREL.

Range. Southern Oceans; north to Madeira. (*H.L.*)
Prion ariel. FAIRY DOVE-PETREL.
Range. Southern Oceans; north to Madeira. (*H.L*)

(*To be Continued*).

The Green Fruitsuckers

(*Chloropsis* and *Iora*).

Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

(*Continued from page* 176).

The Blue-winged Green Fruitsucker (*C. hardwickii*). This beautiful species, though long known to aviculture by odd specimens, was imported in fair numbers, last year, by Mr. W. Frost, who again, this year brought over a few birds, including two females, these latter being I believe the first arrivals in this country. As will be seen from the description of its plumage, it is equally beautiful and even more varied than *aurifrons*, it also possesses the same characteristics and power of mimicry which make that species an ideal cage bird. Its habits and demeanour in a state of nature being similar to the preceding species, it would be waste of space to re-capitulate them here.

It is an inhabitant of the S.E. Himalayas, from Nepal to Bootan, spreading southwards to the hill ranges of Assam, Sylhet and Arrakan; and is found at elevations of from 2,000 to 4,000 feet.

Description—*Male*: Upper parts rich silky green; wings and tail violet- or purple-blue, the bend of the wings verdigris-blue; sides of face below the eye, throat, and fore-neck purplish-black; breast rich glossy purple; moustachial streaks hyacinth-blue; fore-head and border to face mask yellow; abdomen and under tail-coverts saffron-yellow; bill black; legs and feet plumbeous; irides light brown. Full length 7½ to 8 inches.

Female: Differs from the male, she is mostly green and lacks the purple-black throat and neck markings which adorn neck purplish-black; breast rich glossy purple; moustachial yellow on her underparts not so intense and mixed with green.

As one passes from one species to the other of this beautiful genus one realises how difficult it is to draw comparisons where all are so exquisite, and *hardwickii* can hold its own with any of the species, and as regards song and power of mimicry, it can hold its own with "all and sundry."

The species already described are not unduly susceptible to cold; while I should not care to subject any of them to an English winter out of doors, yet *aurifrons*, between four walls has endured, during severe periods, a temperature as low as 35 deg. F. without discomfort and the bird is living to-day. Newly imported specimens of *Chloropsis* need careful nursing to weather the prostration that usually follows importation.

The remaining species will be given in September "*B.N.*," the writer having found it quite impossible to make the necessary research this month.

THE GENUS *IORA*.

Considerable diversity of opinion exists as to the exact position of this genus, but it at any rate has many affinities with the preceding genus, and as outwardly in colour and in name (Green Bulbul—Fruitsucker) they strongly resemble *Chloropsis* I am adding a few notes and including them among the Green Fruitsuckers. Jerdon defines the genus as under:

"Bill, moderate, or rather long, somewhat compressed, very "slightly curving; culmen rounded, slightly hooked at the tip, and "notched; rectal bristles almost wanting; nostrils apart; wing "rather short, with 4th, 5th, and 6th quills, sub-equal and longest; secondaries long, nearly equal to the primaries; tail even, "short; tarsus rather short with scales divided; toes short; middle "toe very little longer than the outer, which is slightly syndactyle; "claws slightly curved; hind toe shorter than the middle toe."

"It may be seen in almost every garden in the south of "India. Its habits are more active and restless than those of any "other member of this family, being much like those of the Tits. "It may be seen diligently and carefully searching the smaller "branches and twigs of trees, climbing actively among them, "peering under the leaves, and occasionally clinging like a Titmouse from a slender twig; all the while keeping up a loud "warbling strain, or a low querulous sort of note, very different from each other. It is not confined to cultivated ground, "but is also a denizen of the open spaces of jungles. Its flight "is performed by a succession of quick vibrations of the wing, "and causes a loud whirring sound. Its food consists of various "insects and larvæ, spiders, etc."

I propose to retain the name Green Bulbul for this genus, BLACK-HEADED GREEN BULBUL (*Iora zeylonica*): I have never kept any of this genus, though I have closely examined their skins, and though most of the species are one-third smaller than *Chloropsis*, yet they strongly resemble them—as might be expected they have many characteristics that are Tit- and Babbler-like. I do not think this species, or in fact any species of *Iora* are known to English aviculture.

DESCRIPTION—*Male in breeding plumage*: The whole of the head, back, wings (crossed by two white bars), and tail black, the latter tipped with yellowish-white: below rich deep yellow, paler on the middle of abdomen and under tail-coverts; the flanks are adorned with tufts of white plumes; bill plumbeous; irides greyish white; legs and feet plumbeous-brown. Full length 5½ inches; tail 2.

According to Jerdon the male of this species has very little black on the upper parts (during the off season), or it is much mixed with green, also that the white of the quills faintly edged with yellow, and he believes the black areas to be mostly seasonal and brought about either by a partial moult or by a change in the feathers.

Female: Differs from the male; upper surface grass-green; lower surface yellow; wings dark brown-black, with two whitish bars and yellowish edges.

HABITAT AND HABITS: Southern India, where it is one of the commonest birds and its nesting period August and September, but I had better quote Jerdon in full as to its wild life:

> "The male at the breeding season, now and then takes a "short flight from one tree to another, slowly, and in a flutter-"ing manner, with his black tail spread, and the white feathers "of the flanks puffed outwards and upwards, so as to give the "appearance of a pure white rump. I have seen the nest and "eggs on several occasions. The nest is deep, cup-shaped, very "neatly made with grass, fibres, hairs, and spider's web; and "the eggs, two or three in number, are reddish white with "numerous darker red spots, chiefly at the thicker end. It "breeds in the South of India, in August and September; per-"haps, however, twice a year. Burgess, speaking of its notes, "says 'truly, it has a wonderful power of voice; at one moment "uttering a lowly, plaintive cry, at the next a shrill whistle.' Lay-"ard, too, who observed it in Ceylon, states that 'the note is a "clear bell-like whistle, which may be imitated on an octave

"flute' . . . . It is said by the natives of the south of "India to repeat the word 'Shoubhiga shoubhiga,' before rain."

Truly a fascinating species for aviculture.

WHITE-WINGED GREEN BULBUL (*Iora typhia*): This species is common to North India, and is found in Nepal, Bengal, Central India, Assam, Arrakan, and the Malayan Peninsula. In all except plumage it is so similar to the preceding species, that there is no need to repeat details here.

DESCRIPTION—*Male*: Upper surface olive-green; wings and tail black, the former slightly edged with yellow; greater coverts broadly tipped with white; scapulars mostly white; under surface yellow; bill, legs and feet brownish-blue. Full length 5½ inches, tail 2.

Female: Very similar to the male, but her wings are much lighter than his, and she has a green tail.

(*To be Continued*).

Nesting of the Palm Tanager

BY LADY EDITH DOUGLAS PENNANT.

In June. 1910, I purchased a pair of these birds from Mr. W. Frost; they are, I believe, the Tobago sub-species. Almost at once this pair of birds went to nest, their choice falling on a box, about one foot long, with a hole at one end, and a door in the top, to allow of examination. The nest was constructed in the far corner of the box, with hay, grass, and hair, it was a neatly built, cup-shaped structure; two eggs were hatched out, but unfortunately both were killed by some other occupant of the aviary. There were several similar episodes during the year, but the result was the same The colour of the eggs was light green, spotted and marbled with brown, but there was considerable variation in the depth of the colouring of the respective clutches.

The young when first hatched were covered with dark down and in the nestling plumage resembled their parents, though the hues of their plumage were duller, entirely lacking the lustre of the adult birds.

In 1911, my experience was exactly similar to that of the preceding year; four times were broods hatched out, and in two instances a young bird left the nest, but only to die or be killed before being able to fend for itself, and I began to despair of success.

This year it again seemed as if I was doomed to disappointment, for in the early part of the year there were two unsuccessful attempts, practically identical with those of the two preceding years. I am inclined to think a pair of Black-winged Grackles have been responsible for most of the failures, and I ought to have removed them long ago.

In the early part of this year I arranged a special summer aviary for the Tanagers, it was complete by April and I at once put in pairs of: Palm, Scarlet, and Magpie Tanagers; also two cock Blue and one hen each Blue-shouldered and Black Tanagers, and a Ruff and Reeve.

Into this aviary I put the two boxes, one or other of which had been used in all their previous attempts, and strange to say, that, though there were plenty of natural sites (bushes, etc.) available, they chose one of these boxes, repairing their last nest.

Again two eggs were laid and both hatched out, but one of the young disappeared, the other, however, steadily grew, duly left the nest, a strong, and robust bird; it was quite independent of its parents on June 23rd, and is still living.

I may remark here, that besides the ordinary diet, the parents received an abundant supply of mealworms, live ants' eggs, etc., and on these, so far as I was able to observe—this applies to 1910 and 1911 as well as the present season, but in the latter case many insects were captured in the aviary by the old birds, and carried to their young.

Thus after two years of disappointing failure, I was the happy possessor of the first young bird of this species to be reared in Great Britain.

This success evidently meant the "turn of the tide" in my aviaries, with this species, for they immediately went to nest again, repairing their old nest and laying two eggs, only one of which hatched out, the young bird leaving the nest on July 24th. It is doing well and the old birds do not worry about it at all, in fact appear to take no notice of it.

Their general demeanour while nesting was secretive, and if alarmed while incubating, the hen never returns till she thinks the cause has left the vicinity. When feeding the young this demeanour is maintained by both parents, for both feed the young, they are very careful, and try hard not to be seen going near the nest. They proved very devoted parents though, always following me into the shed when the young birds was there, making much noise, and flying round in a state of much excitement while I remained. While the young were in the nest they came and sat over the aviary door, waiting for my appearance with mealworms, but they never did this at any other time.

I diet my Tanagers on: soft food, milk sop, boiled rice, ripe fruit, mealworms, and live ants' eggs; supplying live food practically *ad lib.* while they were feeding young.

The Brit. Mus. Cat. describes the Palm Tanager (*Tanagra palmarum*) as under:—

"Olive-green, lighter on the head and darker on the back; "wings and tail brownish black; wing coverts edged with olive "like the back; bastard wing, remiges, and rectrices more or "less margined with darker olive; under-surface of wing feathers "towards their bases creamy white; bill dark horn-colour; feet "brown; whole length 7.5 inches, wing 3.8, tail 3. *Female,* "similar, but rather smaller."

"Hab. From S. Brazil and Bolivia northwards to Trinidad, "Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, and Costa Rica."

"The Western form (*T. melanoptera*) is hardly distinguish"able as a species, as there are many intermediate grades; but "in general there are no olive-green edgings to the wing- and "tail-feathers in western specimens. In Guianan skins these "edgings are slightly manifest."

This western form is recognised as a sub-species of *palmarum,* as *T. p. melanoptera.*

[On August 1st I saw both the young birds referred to above, they were every whit as strong on the wing as their parents, rather wild and difficult to observe. The colour areas were similar to those of the adult birds, but were not only duller, but also somewhat dusky, causing them to appear of a darker hue than their parents. I hope to give some notes of Lady E. D. Pennant's collection and aviaries in September "*B.N.*"—Ed.]

* * *

Breeding a Chaffinch-Greenfinch Hybrid.

By Rev. J. M. Paterson.

I mentioned to our Editor that I had succeeded in breeding one such hybrid, so he asked me to give a short account of it for our *Bird Notes.* I am afraid I cannot claim much credit for the success, as the thing was quite a fluke as far as my calculations were concerned.

Last year I turned out (as I thought), two hen Greenfinches into one of my garden aviaries, with a number of other Britishers, hoping to get some hybrids, but they turned out to be a pair, and reared several young Greenfinches. This spring, having made my selection of birds to breed from, I put the odd birds into a separate aviary, all of which birds I imagined were cocks; and went away for a fortnight's holiday. Amongst these imagined cocks were two of the young Greenfinches, reared last year, and a stray cock Chaffinch, which had repeatedly entered this same aviary whilst it was unoccupied, and the door left open, and which finally was shut in as a regular inmate. On my return from my holiday I found that both these Greenfinches had built and laid a clutch of eggs, and on examination afterwards I found that two of the eggs were filled. The other cock birds in the same aviary were a Snow Bunting, and Ribbon Finch, so I thought that probably the Chaffinch must have filled them, and watched to see if he was paying any further attention, and before long my doubts were removed.

As some pairs of softbills were nesting, and a clutch of Jacarini's due to hatch off, I had secured a stock of maggots, live ants' eggs, young mealworms, and egg-food. A small quantity of each was put in small pans on the floor of the aviary when the youngsters were due to hatch out. Also twice a day I gave fresh groundsel, dandelion heads, seeding grass, and lettuce. The two youngsters throve splendidly for four days, and then were both thrown out of the nest. One was dead when picked up, and the other almost, but we revived it in the usual way, and put it under a hen Norwich Canary, which had been sitting only four days. To my great joy she took to it readily and started feeding it. I also helped to feed it with a "Fill-up" feeder, and egg-food moistened with cod liver oil. The youngster never went back a day, and fledged very quickly and was doing for himself before he was five weeks old.

In appearance he is smaller than a Greenfinch, and lacks the stripes on the breast of the young Greenfinch, but has a yellow throat, and dun coloured waistcoat. The back and head are very like those of a hen Chaffinch, but the wings and tails are coloured more like the Greenfinch. The beak is neither Greenfinch nor Chaffinch, but is small edition of half-and-half, being shorter than that of the Chaffinch, and not so sharp and pointed; and yet not so thick and big as that of the Greenfinch.

Several eggs from the same hens have been filled by the same Chaffinch, but none of them have hatched out, to my regret. As I have now quite a number of aviary bred Greenfinches, I hope to have some luck next year in the hybrid direction.

Producing the Blue Budgerigar.

BY REV. J. M. PATERSON.

In the various bird shops where the continental bred Budgerigar is frequently to be found, I had occasion last year year to examine and handle a number of these pretty and interesting brids. In doing so I noticed that in some adult specimens the yellow undulations on the wings were sometimes white (excuse the Hibernianism) and that the usual green, adjacent to the yellow, had become blue. So I purchased such specimens, as I chanced across them, and this spring I had three such pairs to breed from. One of these three pairs only has been really prolific, and they have had four nests, averaging five a nest. The young ones have in several instances blue feathers above the tail, and also round the vent, below the tail, as well as the white undulations on the wings instead of yellow.

I venture to suggest that if these specimens, which have a lack of yellow in their colouring, were bred in shaded aviaries, out of the direct sunlight, it would conduce towards the non-production of the yellow colour. My reason for thinking so is perhaps a very slight one, but trusting to the clemency of our readers, I venture to give it.

It is known that the direct rays of the sun are in-

Missel Thrushes feeding their young.

AVIAN PRESS PROCESS

Photos by H. Willf

Bullfinch on Nest.

jurious to certain parts of the body, especially to the *leucocytis,* or white blood corpuscles. Nature provides a colour screen, especially in tropical countries, to filter out the actinic rays in the shape of black, red or yellow colouring. So when the yellow is removed from a bird's protective colouring, the bird itself should be removed from the danger against which it needs protection.

Also I think that so long as birds are allowed to go into the strong sunlight, there will be an imperative call on the part of Nature for the natural form of protection, which in consequence will result in the production of protective colouring. If the need for protective colouring be removed, by breeding Budgerigars in the shade, it will conduce to the non-production of the yellow.

I am afraid this sounds very theoretical and not the least interesting, but I venture to think it is worth a trial. In conclusion, I add that I have found those Budgerigars with most blue and least yellow in their colouring are, as a rule, both small and delicate.

Bird Marking.

By Dr. Philip Gosse, M.B.O.U.

The following is a short account of the birds marked with migration rings this season: March to the end of July this year.

Nearly all the birds given in the list below, were marked as young birds in the immediate neighbourhood of the village of Beaulieu, in South Hampshire. The rings used are those of the Aberdeen University Migration Inquiry. They are made of aluminium, in several sizes, and each ring is stamped with a consecutive number and the address "Aberdeen Univ."

The object of the scheme is to help to unravel the mystery of the migration of birds. The actual returns are very few, but every one that is found and reported, supplies one definite fact, so that in time, it is to be hoped our knowledge of the movements of birds will be greatly increased. It may seem surprising that the bird to head the list should be the Blue Tit, of which 162 were marked. The explanation of this is that we have about 40 nesting boxes, of various sizes, in two woods, and most of those with the small openings are inhabited by Blue Tits. Although this is only the second year that these boxes have been up, there is already a a noticeable increase in the numbers of this species in the neighbourhood. One can not help thinking that there are not enough natural "sites" for them as directly a box is put up in the spring a pair of Blue or Marsh Tits begin building in it. In one case on looking at a box in the evening, that had been put up the same morning, I found a pair of Blue Tits had already started to build,

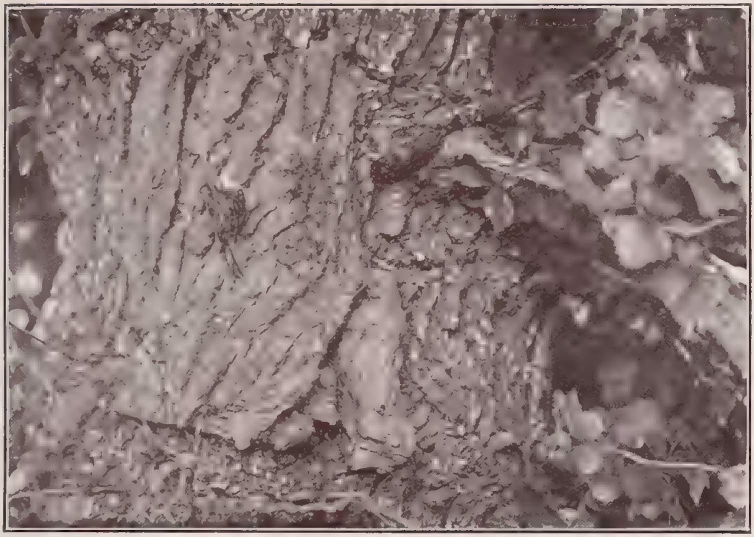
The kind of box used is that designed by Baron Von Berlepsch. They are made in several sizes, and are all exact copies of tree trunks that have been hollowed out by Woodpeckers the interior being flask shaped. These boxes are supplied at a very moderate cost, by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Another advantage they have, is that the lid bolts down and can only be opened with a special key. This protects the birds and eggs from prying boys. The birds that have so far nested in the boxes have been Nuthatches; Blue, Great, Marsh, and Cole Tits.

It is said that the boxes should be placed in the trees facing in a southerly direction, but away from the prevailing wind. I have tried placing the boxes on every side and a height varying from three feet to thirty: and have come to the conclusion that it does not matter which way the opening into the box looks.

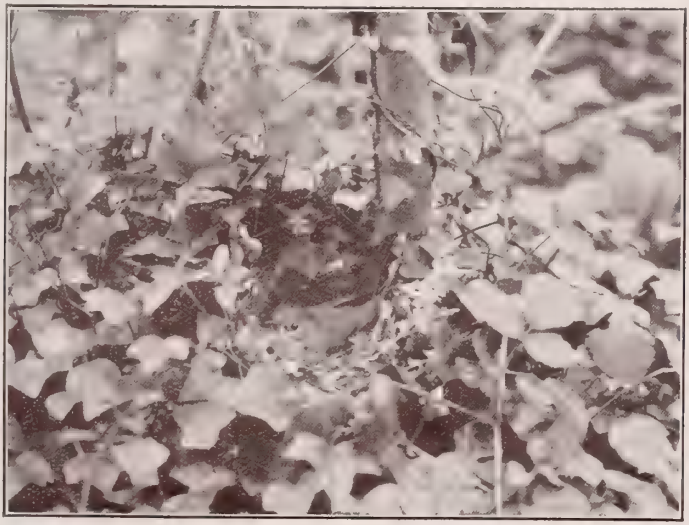
I have never put a Blue Tit box higher than about 20 feet up, but they were quickly built in at this height. Also one is told that the last year's nest should be removed or the birds will not nest in the box the following year. This I find quite unnecessary. After all in the normal state, the old nest has to remain where it is. It is best to put the boxes up in the autumn as the birds get used to them, and also, I think, roost in them.

Another bird that much appreciates an artificial nesting site is the Tree Creeper. This can be made quite easily with a few pieces of bark. A large flat or slightly curved piece is nailed up about five or six feet from the ground against the trunk of a fair sized tree, oak or elm for preference. Then a small piece of bark is placed beneath the lower end of the large piece; this prevents the nest from falling out. Finally another strip of bark is nailed over the upper end to act as a roof to prevent rain from getting in the nest.

An opening should be left or made to allow the birds



Tree Creepers bring food to Nest—hen preparing to enter nest to feed her young on right of photo.



Photos by H. Willford

Nightingale on Nest.

Photos by H. Willford.

Willow Wrens at Nest.

to get in and out. In the case of these nesting sites it is necessary to put them up in the autumn as the birds like to roost in them during the winter. No Tree Creeper has nested with me until the bark has been up during the winter months. During the five months, March to the end of July, it will be seen that 822 birds have been "marked."

1	Blue Tit	162
	Song Thrush	114
	Blackbird	99
	Hedge Sparrow	39
5	Lapwing	38
	Chaffinch	38
	Robin	30
	Linnet	20
	Nuthatch	19
10	Swallow	15
	Garden Warbler	14
	Spotted Flycatcher	14
	Great Tit	13
	Willow Wren	13
15	Meadow Pipit	12
	Longtail Tit	12
	Greenfinch	12
	Common Quail	10
	Cole Tit	10
20	House Sparrow	10
	Common Wren	10
	Teal	10
	Wood Pigeon	10
	Marsh Tit	9
25	Skylark	9
	Wild Duck	9
	Starling	8
	Mistle Thrush	8
	Nightingale	7
30	Whitethroat	7
	Shelduck	7
	Blackcap	5
	Goldfinch	4
	Redshank	3
35	Turtle Dove	3
	Reed Warbler	3
	Moorhen	3
	Tree Creeper	2
	Swift	2
40	Yellowhammer	2
	Nightjar	2
	Partridge	2
	Pheasant	1
	Hawfinch	1
45	Redstart	1

Almost all young birds I find, I mark, except the following :—

Gold-crested Wrens, which are too small.

Tree Creepers: I marked two but not any more, although two pairs brought up families behind pieces of bark nailed up as shown in the photograph by Mr. Willford taken in my garden.

Dartford Warblers, which certainly do not migrate, but seem to live in the same bush always.

Great-spotted Woodpeckers: Three nests with young found.

Lesser-spotted Woodpeckers.

Curiously enough I could not find a single Goldfinch's nest this year until half way through July, although they are exceedingly common here and increasing every year. Only one nest of Bullfinches was found which Mr. Willford photographed, but it was robbed shortly after.

The Hawfinch was caught in some netting put up to protect green peas. Its plumage showed it to be a young bird although I did not find the nest.

The only birds that were not caught wild were the common Quail which were bought, marked, and then liberated in a field of beans.

The Shelducks were caught and marked on a pond close to the Solent, and are very strictly preserved by Lord Montagu, of Beaulieu; owing to whose kindness and interest I have been able to mark so many birds; he also supplied many of the nesting boxes.

Lastly, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking my friend Mr. H. Wilford, for the charming photographs of birds and their nests, which he took, some of which illustrate these notes.

Species which have reared young in Captivity in Great Britain.

WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

(Continued from page 190).

Re the list of PSITTACI given in our last issue, one of our members writes that he is under the impression that the Red-winged Parrakeet had been bred, but he is unable to give any details or refer to a definite record. I have since found that such is the case and that the

RED-WINGED PARRAKEET (*Ptistes erythropterus*)

Must be added to the species which have been bred in Great Britain. I must admit my research re these records has not been as thorough as I would fain have had it.

I propose leaving recent records to be added at the end of the season.

Chaffinch (♂) bringing food to hungry brood.

Photos by H. Willford.

Chaffinch (♀) brooding her young.

DOVES AND PIGEONS—COLUMBIDÆ.

I also propose here to give an alphabetical list, and to class them according to their popular designation. I fear the list may prove somewhat incomplete, but if members will only take the trouble to check it, with any records they individually know of any omissions should be at once filled.

Doves Aurita or Martinican (*Zenaida aurita*).
,, Bronze-necked (*Z. auriculata*).
,, Diamond (*Geopelia cuneata*).
,, Dwarf Ground (*Chamæpelia griseola*).
,, Emerald (*Chalcopelia afra*).
,, Geoffroy's (*Perestera geoffroyi*).
,, Harlequin or Cape (*Œna capensis*).
,, Indian Green-winged (*Chalcophaps indica*).
,, Partridge or Red Mountain (*Geotrygon montana*).
,, Passerine (*Chamæpelia passerina*).
,, Peaceful (*Geopelia tranquilla*).
,, Picui or Steel Barred (*Columbula picui*).
,, Plumed Ground (*Lophophaps leucogaster*).
,, Rufous (*Leptoptila reichenbachi*).
,, Scaly (*Scardafella squamosa*).
,, Solitary Ground (*Leptoptila chloranchenia*).
,, Talpacoti (*Chamoepelia talpacoti*).
,, Tambourine (*Tympanistra bicolor*).
,, Violet or White-fronted (*Leptoptila jamaicensis*).
,, White-winged Zenaida (*Melopelia leucoptera*).
,, Zebra or Striated (*Geopelia striata*).

Turtle-Dove Barbary (*Turtur risorius*).
,, Deceptive (*T. decipiens*).
,, Dwarf or Ruddy (*T. humilis*).
,, Half-collared (*T. semitorquatus*).
,, Madagascar (*T. picturatus*).
,, Necklaced (*T. tigrinus*).
,, Senegal (*T. senegalensis*).
,, Spotted (*T. suratensis*).
,, Vinaceous (*T. vinaceus*).

Pigeon, Australian Crested (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).
,, Bartlett's Bleeding-heart (*Phologoenas criniga*).
,, Black-bearded or Spanish Partridge (*Starnaenas cyanocaphala*).
,, Bleeding-heart (*Phologoenas luzonica*).
,, Bronze-winged (*Phaps chalcoptera*).
,, Brush Bronze-winged (*Phaps elegans*).
,, Great Crowned (*Goura coronata*).
,, Nicobar (*Calænas nicobarica*).
,, Partridge Bronze-wing (*Geophaps scripta*).

Pigeon, Picazuro (*Columba picazuro*).
„ Porto Rico (*C. squamosa*).
„ Rufus (*C. rufina*).
„ Snow (*C. leuconota*).
„ Spotted or Spot-winged (*C. maculosa*).
„ Triangular Spotted (*C. guinea*).
„ White-crowned (*C. leucocephala*).
„ White-throated (*C. albigularis*).
„ Wonga Wonga (*Leucosarcia picata*).

To be Continued.

Editorial.

This is the holiday month, and our notes and news will be but brief, however there are some avicultural episodes worth recording, if only a list be given.

Nesting Notes.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA PARRAKEET (*Spathopterus alexandræ*). Mr. H. D. Astley has two more young of this species from a different pair to those which scored the initial success.

SHAMAH (*Cittocincla macroura*). It is some years, we believe, since young of this species were reared in captivity, and Mr. Astley is to be congratulated on having three young birds on the wing in his aviaries. A detailed account of this success from Mr. Astley's pen would be of general interest.

BLUE ROBIN (*Sialia sialis*). Mr. Astley is also the fortunate possessor of this once common but now alas ! almost unobtainable species, and their number has been increased by the successful rearing of one young bird.

ORANGE-HEADED GROUND THRUSH (*Geocicla citrinus*). Another interesting event in Mr. Astley's aviaries is the nesting of this species--a natural nest was built in a small fir tree and a brood successfully reared. Mr. Astley bred this species last year for the first time in Great Britain.

CRESTED LARK (*Galerita cristata*). Mr. W. E. Teschemaker has bred this species, and three young birds have been fully reared. Mr. Teschemaker has met with a fair amount of success, for he has also bred five PARADISE WHYDAHS (*Steganura paradisea*), two ROCK PIPITS (*Anthus obscurus*), a brood of WHINCHATS (*Pratincola rubétra*), and two BLACK REDSTARTS (*Ruticilla titys*). We congratulate our member on his success, and we hope he will contribute some details of the above episodes.

HYBRIDS. Some interesting crosses have been successfully reared, viz.:—

Chaffinch x Greenfinch—Rev. J. Paterson.
Grey Singingfinch x Linnet—Miss E. F. Chawner.
Black-headed Siskin x Canary—T. G. Nicolson.
Swainson's Lorikeet x Chattering Lory—Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley.

Details will appear later.

RED SIDED ECLECTUS PARROT. Miss Drummond has two young of this species 21 days old (August 6) and doing well. We certainly hope complete success will be attained on this occasion and the long record of past disappointments broken.

RED-COLLARED LORIKEET (*Trichoglossus rubritorques*). Miss Drummond has also one or more young of this species being fed *in a burrow*. The parent birds have burrowed their way some distance under a tub containing a growing bush, and have nested there, though there were roomy logs and specially prepared boxes of several kinds in their enclosure.

SCARLET TANAGER (*Rhamphocœlus brasilius*). On pages 153 to 155 of current volume, Dr. J. E. Scott gave an account of his success in breeding this species ; unfortunately the young bird did not enjoy a long life after fending for itself, but the parent birds have nested again and another strong and promising youngster is on the wing and has been fending for itself some fourteen days.

CUBA AND OLIVE FINCHES: Several broods of these interesting species have been reared by Capt. J. S. Reeve. These species have also reared young in the aviaries of other members, but details are not yet to hand.

PEKIN ROBINS: Mr. H. L. Sich, finding a pair of these birds very unamiable towards some Waxbills in his aviary at East Hoathley, Sussex, gave them their liberty. It seems very probable that they remained in the locality, as two broods have been reared, the second brood has been captured and are now in the aviary of our member Mrs. Bonnick.

THE CLUB'S MEDAL. Medals have been awarded as under for breeding these species for the first time in Great Britain, the Awards Committee knowing of no previous record :—

Palm Tanager (*Tanagra palmarum, melanoptera*)—Lady E. Douglas Pennant, Scarlet Tanager (*Rhamphocœlus brasilius*)—Dr. J. Easton Scott.

Pope Cardinal (*Paroaria larvata*)—Lady E. Douglas Pennant.

Grenadier Weaver (*Euplectes oryx*)—R. S. de Quincey Quincey.

Grey Finch (*Spermophila grisea*)—Wesley T. Page.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*)—W. E. Teschemaker.

Queen Alexandra Parrakeet (*Spathopterus alexandræ*—H D. Astley.

Will any member, who knows of a previous instance of any of the above species having been bred, kindly send details to the Honorary Secretary.

Hybrid records will be dealt with later.

SUMMER AVIARIES AT THE ZOO: These have more than justified their erection, though it has been left to private aviculturists to lead the way.

THE SCARLET TANAGERS (*R. brasilius*), which we mentioned last month, left the nest, but died before being able to fend for themselves.

THE GREY-WINGED OUZELS: (*M. boulboul*), have fully reared three young birds from two nests, and are again incubating. It is worthy of note, that fully a score of this species have been reared this season by private aviculturists.

THE WHITE-THROATED GROUND THRUSHES (*G. cyanonotus*), successfully reared the first brood (two), and are again engaged in feeding another couple.

THE MAGPIE TANAGERS (*Cissopsis leveriana*) have a nest in a privet bush, between 6 and 7 feet from the ground, three eggs were laid, two young birds being duly hatched out and on July 29th, being then about ten days old, they were observed looking over the top of the nest. The nest is an open one and constructed of various grasses. Not previously bred in Great Britain.

THE PEALE'S PARROT FINCHES (*E. pealei*), have nested, and three young birds are now on the wing. Not previously bred in Great Britain.

CARDINALS: There are some young hybrid Red-crested x Pope Cardinals fully reared.

The White-fronted, and Scaly Doves; Bronze-winged Pigeons, Californian Quail, and Rufous Tinamous have all reared young. Crimson Finches are nesting.

In other aviaries Yellow-collared Parrakeets, Mexican Rose Finches have reared young, while Black-head x Jameson's Gulls, Cariama, and Hemprich's Gulls are being reared. Many Pheasants, Ducks, etc., have also been reared by the aid of foster parents.

A RARE CONURE: There is at the present time on deposit in the Parrot House of the London Zoo, a specimen of the unique Golden Conure (*Conurus guarouba*). It belongs to Mr. D. Ezra, of Calcutta, and is at present rather rough in plumage, but its great beauty is already evident.

CLUB MEETING AT THE ZOO: At this gathering on July 26th, we were favoured with fine weather, and though not so large a company as expected, the gathering was a great success. Some few of the members met at 11 a.m., and while "doing" the various avaries, and taking lunch, many interesting experiences were exchanged, and birdy episodes recounted. At 2-30, more members were met at the Small Birds' House, and a very interesting hour was spent in "doing" the Western Aviary thoroughly and admiring its varied, beautiful and interesting occupants, and rare specimens of the "wild creatures of the air" from almost all climes. Then an adjournment was made to the back of the Fellows' Pavilion, which was reserved for our party, and a pleasant social time was spent over afternoon tea, though our party was reduced by several having to leave early to catch *holiday* trains. Afterwards various aviaries were visited in company, their occupants admired, the intervals being filled in with interesting avian "gossip." Over 20 apologies for non attendance were received from members either away or on the eve of leaving for their summer holidays—for the same reason several who had notified their intention of being present, were absentees. The following ladies and gentlemen were present: Hon. Mrs. G. Bourke, Mr. E. A. H. Hartley, Mrs. Lee, Miss M. E. Baker, Miss Eccles, Miss Knobel, Mr. and Mrs. de Barros, Rev. J. Paterson, Messrs. R. J. Watts, Sydney Williams, F.Z.S., A. Ezra, D. Ezra, R. Hoffmann, and W. T. Page, F.Z.S.

We hope to arrange the special meeting of the year at an earlier and more convenient date another year.

Aviaries at the Cripples' Hospital: We desire to thank the following for kind donations as under:—

1 Cockateel—Miss A. B. Smyth.

1 Chaffinch, 5 Greenfinches, 2 Weavers, 1 Twite—H. J. Phair.

2 Weavers, 6 Orange-cheeked Waxbills, 3 Orange-breasted Waxbills, 3 Cordon Bleus—E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.B., etc.

Spare young or other birds, either for the Finch or Parrakeet aviary, will be gratefully acknowledged.

Correspondence.

GREY SINGING FINCH x LINNET HYBRIDS.

Sir,—The history of the Singing Finch x Linnet hybrids is as follows: Last Spring I noticed that my Grey Singing Finch was anxious to mate with an English hen Linnet, which was in the same aviary with him. She, however, preferred a cock of her own species and the Singing Finch was driven off. The Linnets nested, and partly reared one young bird, but the Singing Finch was always following them about, and, I believe was the ultimate cause of the cock Linnet's death which took place about the middle of June. Two days later I saw the Singing Finch feeding the Linnet, and on July 1st I found they had built a nest among a quantity of heather, piled against the side of their aviary. It contained three eggs, two of which hatched on July 10th, the third being infertile. The young left the nest on July 26th, both strong, well-fledged birds, quite able to fly and follow their parents. The Singing Finch took charge of one and the Linnet devoted herself to the other. They were reared on mixed seeds, green stuff and cucumber, for which the old birds were very eager. Occasionally the Singing Finch took a mealworm. Both birds fed from the crop, but I think the Linnet alone incubated the eggs, the Singing Finch contenting himself with driving other birds away from the vicinity of the nest. The young are now (July 31st) fending for themselves. They are larger than their father, but have his head and beak, also the white underparts and rump. Their breasts are pale greyish brown, striated with darker brown, wings and back pale brown, tails brown, edged with black, like the linnet's They have a pleasing call note, and were clamorous while being fed. Like the Singing Finch, they roost high up in the most exposed part of the aviary regardless of the weather, while the Linnet prefers to shelter among the heather.

July 31st, 1912. E. F. CHAWNER.

SWAINSON'S LORIKEET.

Sir.—I think it may interest the members of the Club to hear that I have now succeeded in breeding from the second generation of my Swainson's Lorikeets. Both the old couple and a pair of their young have babies (one each) almost fledged. It is some time since the old pair reared a young one, though they had quite a number, but when a few days old they seemed to neglect them, and start nesting again. This time they made their way into the roof of their cage, and between the wooden top and the iron one, reared this young one. I find I have to keep them quite in the dark for them to do any good, so I now have special cages for them, divided into two parts. In front of one division I have a wooden shutter half way up, so that they get plenty of air, but are quite hidden from any passers by. The old pair have started to lay again. Altogether, including these two, I have bred ten birds that have grown up, and I should think quite a dozen others which have died when a few days old.

With my other birds I have not done well this year. Even with Canaries I have lost many through parents not feeding them. Last summer our cook brought up two young Canaries from a day old by feeding them with Benger's Food, and putting them into a warm airing cupboard at night. We have one of these still, but the other died in fits this summer.

July 31st, 1912. C. ROSA LITTLE.

[It would be of great interest if Miss Little could give the age of the young pair of birds now rearing a fledgeling, as it would be some guide as to the age at which this species is fully mature.—Ed.]

Post Mortem Reports.

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st. of any month

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of the F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

Gouldian Finch. (A. J. C. Lowe, Notts.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Fire-tail Finch (♂) (Chas. H. Row, Suffolk). Cause of death, acute enteritis.

Crossbill (♀) (Miss E. F. Chawner, Hants.) Cause of death, acute enteritis.

Young Golden Pheasant (♂) (R. Mainwaring, Southfields, S.W. This young bird had all the post mortem appearances of having succumbed from cold. I did not find any coccidia, which cause a terrible mortality in young pheasants, chickens, grouse, etc.

Many Coloured Parrakeet (♂) (Miss A. B. Smyth, Catford). Cause of death, septicæmia.

Gouldian Finch. (Mrs. C. A. Longdon, Guildford). Cause of death, septicæmia.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. (Dr. Philip Gosse, Hants.) Cause of death, septicæmia.

Cockateel (♀) (Mrs. Sproston, Nantwich). Cause of death, enteritis.

Cockatoo. (E. A. Mallet, Barnsley). The cause of death was pericarditis of a peculiar type. The heart was covered with a mealy material. This condition is common in Parrakeets. In an outbreak of an infectious disease in some highly bred poultry I found a similar condition of the heart but in blood drawn from the living birds very great numbers of a small micro-organism resembling that of fowl cholera were observed.

Canary (♀) (A. J. C. Lowe, Notts.) Ruptured egg yolk in the peritoneal cavity. No doubt the funnel-shaped extremity of the oviduct failed to grasp the yolk as it left the ovisac, and therefore it tumbled into the abdominal cavity.

Parrakeet. (Mrs. E. Turner-Turner, Hants.) The cause of death was enteritis.

Superb Tanager (♂) (The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Tadcaster). The cause of death was nephritis or inflammation of the kidney, which was also infiltrated with fat.

White-headed Mannakin (♂) (Frank Howe, Wellingborough). The cause of death was acute enteritis. Continually picking things over or throwing seed out of the seed pot without eating any, a restlessness and ultimately *a peculiar haggard expression* are characteristics of acute necrotic enteritis in birds.

Brown's Parrakeet (♂) (Miss Drummond, Mains of Megginch, Errol, N.B.) Apparently the bird died in a fit, and beyond the brain being somewhat congested the carcase seemed healthy.

Young Budgerigar. (H. Snarey, Blackburn). Cause of death, acute hepatitis or inflammation of the liver, probably of bacterial origin.

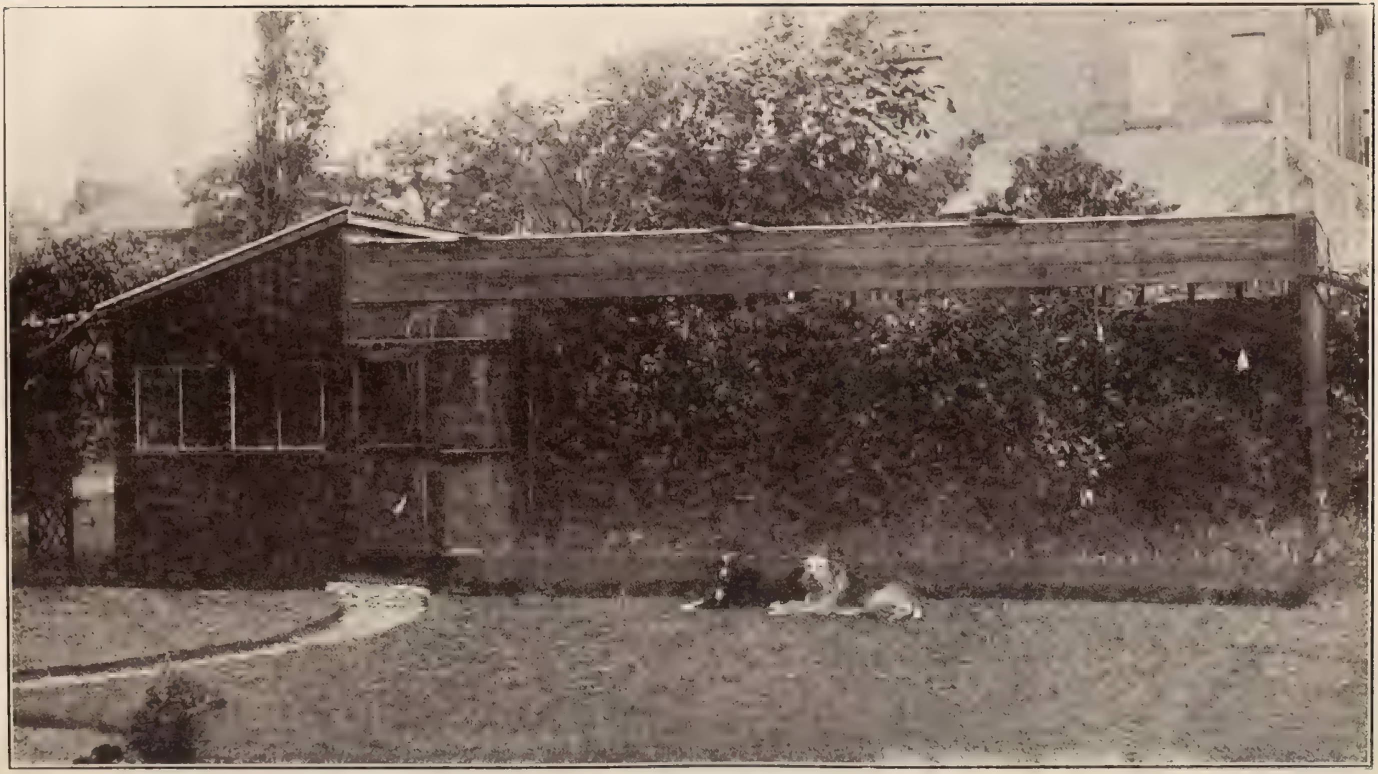
Diamond Sparrow (♂) (Mrs. E. Travis, Stourbridge). The cause of death was pneumonia, probably of an infectious origin. Bird fever may remain in certain birds for a long time. All the Cardinals I have examined for some months back had succumbed to bird fever.

Cordon Bleu (♂) (Mr. J. Smith, Kendal). Cause of death, pneumonia. Cutthroat (♂) had the same disease.

Hon. Mrs. Bamfylde, North Devon. The Parrot Finch was a cock.

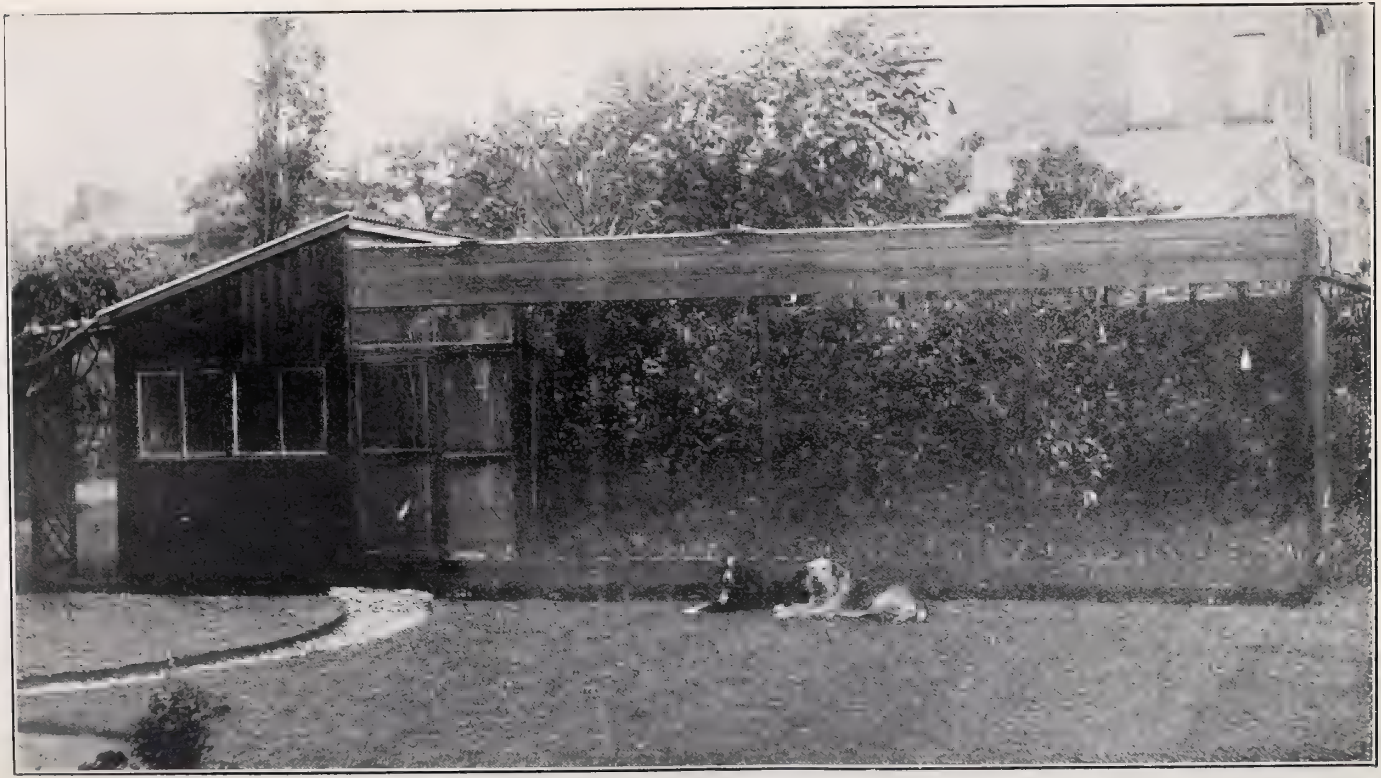
Answered by post: The Hon. Mary C, Hawke (2); Lady Webster; The Hon. Mrs. Bourke; H. D. Astley.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.



AVIAN PRESS PROCESS.

Mr. Bright's Largest Aviary.



Mr. Bright's Largest Aviary.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

My Aviaries and Birds.

BY HERBERT BRIGHT.

I much fear my aviaries and birds are of but little interest to any one save myself, as, being my first year of out-door aviculture I have only kept ordinary kinds at present, but our Editor is very insistent, so I have indited a few rough notes.

My large aviary (see photo) was designed by Mr. W. T. Page, and it has in every way proved a success, for during the past month of appalling weather for the whole of Great Britain, and our corner (Liverpool) has fared almost worse than any other, I have only lost one pair of Cordon Bleus, and though many nests have been simply washed out of the bushes by torrential wind and rain, there are a good few young about, more than I can tabulate, and while there have many disappointments, I must not complain, since it has not been all failure.

This aviary, the flight of which is 24 feet x 16 feet with a shelter-shed attached 16 feet x 6½ feet. The flight is 9 feet high throughout, and the shed is 8 feet high at the back. For winter use, a shed 17 feet long, 8 feet wide by 8 feet high is being prepared, with a door opening into the aviary, and in this the birds will be shut during the worst of the winter months.

The front of the aviary has a S.W. aspect, and is much exposed to wind and some driving rain, hence the shelter boards at top of front, which also extend similarly at right angles over the top—this gives the birds excellent protection and dry cover. During the present inclement weather I have had long glazed sashes fitted, which can be put up, or taken down in a few moments, these have shut out most of the driving rain—the top, except for the extending boards already mentioned, is open ½in. mesh netting.

I had better preface my rough notes of the occupants by saying that they were put out rather late and most of the beautiful spring weather was lost—though the occupants are fairly numerous as will be seen, they have given no trouble—Ruficaudas chased each other a bit at first, both pairs wanting the same privet bush for a nesting site, but this matter soon adjusted itself, the only real trouble was a Paradise Whydah and this had to be caught up and put elsewhere.

This aviary contains the following pairs :—

GOULDIAN FINCHES (*Poephila gouldiæ*). I have two pairs, a pair of Red-headed and a mixed pair Red and Black-headed. Both pairs have been in the husks and have looked like nesting again and again, but there has been no result, however both pairs are really nesting now, so there may yet be some young Gouldian Finches. I have often admired these birds winging their way round the aviary, and have not found them so lethargic as their general reputation led me to suppose.

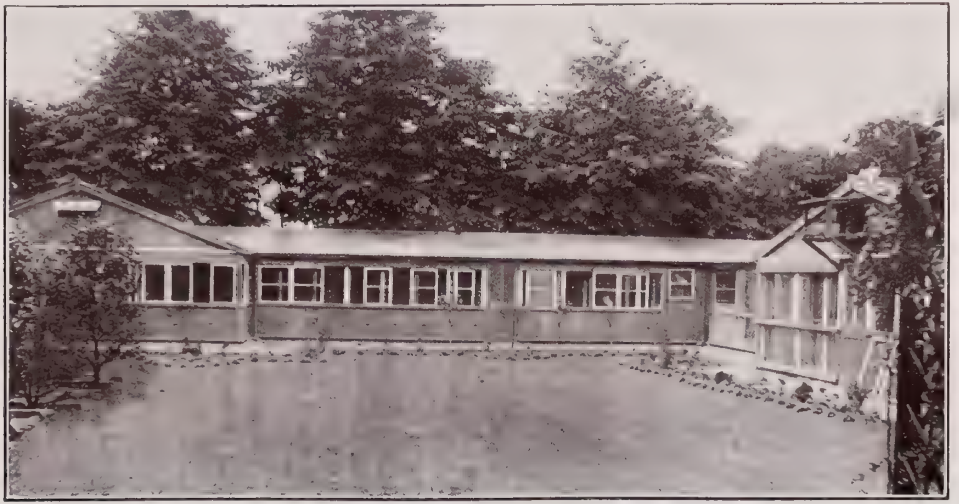
DIAMOND FINCH OR SPARROWS (*Steganopleura guttata*). This pair were put out late, but they have built in a Hartz cage, and are, I think, incubating.

NONPAREIL BUNTINGS (*Cyanospiza ciris*). These commenced a nest on the top of a privet bush, but they gave up, owing, I think, to the wet, the site being a very exposed one and I have not observed any further attempts.

PIN-TAILED NONPAREILS (*Erythrura prasina*). Several times I have observed both the cock and hen carrying nesting material, but I do not think a nest has been completed.

RUFICAUDA FINCHES (*Bathilda ruficauda*). Two pairs of this species are in the aviary and both have built and each had two clutches of eggs, and both pairs are again incubating for the third time, but I have seen no results, however, there are evidently more birds in the aviary than I thought and till cover gets a little less dense, it is not possible to tell what there really are.

MASKED GRASSFINCHES (*Poephila personata*). Of these I have two pairs and both pairs have built several nests and laid clutches of eggs—result: three young Masks fully



Mr. Bright's Pigeon Lofts, some of which have been converted into Aviaries. Note the flights on right of photo with glass sashes and wood panels removed.

reared. Both pairs are again incubating and one pair probably have young.

GREEN AVADAVATS (*Stictospiza formosa*). These have proved most interesting birds and are very beautiful, but though several nests have been built and they are still busy, I do not think they have as yet got as far as eggs.

COMMON AVADAVATS (*Sporoeginthus amandava*). I have three pairs of these charming sprites, which have been very busy all the season, and nests have been built both in boxes and in the long grass. Four young (or more) have been fully reared and there are others still in the nest.

ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILLS (*S. melpodus*). These built in the long grass, but were drowned out by the heavy rain. Profiting by experience, they have chosen a more sheltered place, still in the grass, and are again incubating.

GREY WAXBILLS (*Estrilda cinerea*). These are very fit and active, but have made no attempt to nest.

ORANGE-BREASTED WAXBILLS (*Sporæginthus subflavus*). Nested once or more, but with no known result.

MAGPIE MANNIKINS (*Amauresthes fringilloides*), BRONZE MANNIKINS (*Spermestes cucullata*), and WHITE-HEADED MANNIKIN (*Munia maja*). Of these I have a pair of each, all have built nests and in some cases eggs have been laid, but there has been no result. They are still nesting.

ZEBRA FINCHES (*Tæniopygia castanotis*). I have two pairs of this entertaining and well known species. Each pair has brought off two broods and there are a dozen or more young Zebras fully reared, very probably more, but there is too much cover for me to get at the exact number.

DIAMOND DOVES (*Geopelia cuneata*). This lovely species nested twice without result, then hatched out, but the nest fell down and the squabs were killed. There are, however, two young fully reared, and the parent birds are sitting again in the same place.

RED-HEADED FINCHES (*Amadina erythrocephala*). These have laid three infertile clutches and are now in the moult.

PECTORAL FINCHES (*Munia pectoralis*). Of this handsome species I have two pairs, but I see very little of them, as they keep low down amid the tall grass on the bank at the back of aviary. They have built, and I think one pair is now sitting, but I've seen too little of them to give any details.

Cuban Finches (*Phonipara canora*). These have carried building material about more or less the whole season, but I have not found their nest, nor have I seen any young about.

Parrot Finch (*Erythrura psittacea*). The only bachelor in the aviary. I have been quite unable to procure a mate for him.

MY SMALLER AVIARIES AND CAGES.

The photo opposite figures a range of Pigeon houses, several of these have been converted into aviaries, ultimately I hope to convert the whole and to house Parrakeets, etc., therein, at present four of them are given up to birds. The front glass sashes and wood panels are detachable and can be removed during fine weather, at the right of the photo several divisions may be seen with the sashes and panels removed. The divisions occupied by the birds have the front half of roof glass. The height of this range is 6½ feet at the front and 8 feet at the back, while the raised gables rise to a height of 11 feet.

Division I. This is 9 feet long by 7 feet wide and contains: two pairs of Red-headed Gouldian Finches (at present nesting in a husk), Red- and Black-headed Gouldian Finches (have not nested), Bicheno's Finches (incubating), Zebra Finches (young just on the wing), Ruficauda Finches (one clutch infertile eggs; now incubating another clutch), Masked Grassfinches (have built but not laid). In this aviary I have also two large cages, one contains: pairs of Diamond Finches and Masked (Cape) Doves. The former have nested and laid, and the latter have done so twice, but there has been no result. In the other cage is a pair of Red-crested Cardinals (*Paroaria cucullata*) which build nests but do not lay.

Division II. This contains Yellow Budgerigars and Cockateels, also odd cocks of Paradise and Pintail Whydahs, and Orange and Napoleon Weavers. The Budgerigars have fully reared 18 young and the Cockateels seven; all are sitting again. This division is 11 x 9 x 10 feet high at centre of gable.

To the few odd pairs I have in cages in the house I will not at present refer, and the foregoing has only been supplied by request, as I feel that while of great interest to me, the interest may not be general as my birds are not rare.

The Amethyst Sunbird in its own Country.

By Rev. J. M. Paterson.

Our Editor has asked me to write something about my birdy experiences in India, and as I am an obedient man I am trying to comply,—but whether I shall be able to finish the task I cannot say, as I am a very much occupied man, and have a large and needy parish to look after and three places of worship to serve. However, I mean to have a try, and if my efforts help to make our charming and interesting journal more successful, I shall be more than repaid. [We sincerely hope this is but the first of many similar articles.—Ed.]

My garden in India was originally a large grove of mango and other fruit trees, some of which grew to a great height, and were laden with fruit, each in their season. Many of these trees had to be cleared away in order to leave space to build the bungalow and lay out the garden, but quite sufficient were left to make a well shaded garden. The fruit on these trees was a great attraction to many birds, and unfortunately to some animals also which would not hesitate to make a meal of the eggs, or even the young birds if they found them. Many birds, which were not fruit-eaters as a class, delighted in taking a nibble at the ripe fruit, and many of the Flycatcher class found the shady trees a Paradise of game for their own particular kind of "bag"

My garden was, for this reason, a very good place to study bird life in, but as the birds of my own garden did not confine themselves to it, but wandered freely into other gardens, groves, and orchards, so I too will venture to take my readers, not only into my own garden but into some of the gardens and thorn jungle which lie around it.

Early one morning in February, almost as soon as I got into my bungalow, I was awakened by the quick shrill song of a small bird, sitting on a tree just outside the open

French window of my bedroom. I knew it to be the song of a Sunbird, but there was something so very energetic and full of life and happiness in it, that I did not wait for my *khidmatgar* (table servant) to bring my tea and tell me it was time to get up, but I slipped out of bed, and without showing myself, peeped through the bamboo screen that hung over the open window. The sight that I saw quite repaid me for my trouble, for there was a gallant little Amethyst-rumped Honeysucker (*Arachnechthra zeylonica*) courting his more modest coloured little lady love in a most determined way, without any of the bashful hesitation so common amongst the lords of creation. There he was, right on the top of a low tree, with all his feathers puffed out, his long curved bill pointing to the sky, his head bent back almost to his tail, singing as if he meant to burst himself. He did not stay there long, but dashed round the tree, and out dashed his little lady love, in and out, into the next tree, back again, then off to end of garden, singing all the time as if rapid flight needed no special saving of the wind to keep it up. Back they came again, and a real beauty he looked as now he gleamed a tiny mass of iridescent purple, which changed to metallic green as he turned in his flight; now a gleam of sulphur-yellow as he shot straight upwards showing his waistcoat, gorgeously set off by the metallic lilac of his chin and throat, and the pure white of his under wing-coverts. Away they go again to a neighbouring tank surrounded by trees of many kinds, and I lost sight of them for the time being.

I had plenty of work to do that morning, so I could not go off to watch my little friend, as I would have loved to do, but I did not forget him, and two or three mornings after, I got up an hour earlier than usual to try and locate his nest, if he had already built one. I must now ask my readers to allow me to finish the story of this little couple after the manner of story-tellers, *i.e.*, as fiction built on fact (in this instance, it is the compiling of their life history, from the long continued observation of many pairs).

When I went forth at early dawn to make a closer acquaintance with my little Sunbird, I found out a good deal about other birds as well, but their story can rest for another time. I was not long kept waiting before I saw the metallic gleam I was looking for. This time it passed right across my garden, low down through the trees in the direction of the large tank, so I promptly shifted my position to the place where I saw it disappear, and set myself down to spot it again if possible. In about two or three minutes it passed me again and disappeared into a large tree on the bank of the tank. As it did not reappear I again shifted my position to a place beyond the tree, and again sat down to watch. This time I was successful and saw the little builder carrying materials to his nest. It was quite close to me, about seven or eight yards off, on the extreme tip of the bough of a low thorn tree, about twelve feet from the ground. I kept quite still and watched, and watched, and watched, and my watching was well repaid.

Round and round the twig he worked, now bringing a tiny piece of very fine fibre, now a cobweb smeared over his neck and shoulders, which he detached with his bill and fastened on the twig, and then flew off and returned leaving the cobweb, or part of it hanging on to the twig. Off he flew again, never resting for a second—now to the top of a big tree where numerous spider's webs were still stretched from twig to twig. In and out amongst these he ducks and dodges, collecting quite a coating of spiders' webs over his wings and shoulders, which he successfully transfers to his little nest. After a day or two it nears completion and resembles a long shaped pear, covered with cobwebs and tiny bits of bark and lichen—about six inches long and three inches thick at its widest part. About two-thirds of the way up is a tiny little entrance with its upper edge projecting well over the lower. The inside is warmly and thickly lined with vegetable down and small feathers, and makes a warm and cosy nest for two eggs, absurdly large for so small a bird, coloured a dirty white, with an irregular zone of grey brown markings at the big end. The hen does all the sitting, and if you approach quietly and cautiously you will see her black curved bill lying on the lower edge of the entrance, ready to receive any tit bits that may be brought her by her most attentive partner. He most conscientiously does his part in flying from flower to flower sipping the nectar with his long bill, aided no doubt by his long and useful tongue. Sometimes he will hover in front of the flower like a Humming Bird, and sometimes he will perch on the calix, and deliberately bore a hole at the base of the corolla to get at some insect or some sweet nectar, which he could not reach the other way.

In the ordinary course of events the eggs would hatch in nine or ten days, and the young birds would leave the nest in about a fortnight, but other eyes, besides mine have been watching our busy little workers. In the topmost fork of a tall mango tree, not 50 yards from the nest of our little friends is the nesting place of the Common Indian Magpie* (*Dendrocitta rufa*). He is the sworn foe of all small birds in India, and he is very fond of eggs, and never loses a chance of eating any he can get hold of. As soon as he is satisfied that the Sunbirds' nest contains eggs he pays it a visit, and making his way cautiously to the end of the twig to which it is fastened, he tears out the front of the beautiful little structure, sticks his bill into an egg, places one foot upon it and eats the contents and then swallows the shell. The same fate follows the second egg, and the robber goes on his way to find other nests and other eggs.

The little Sunbirds did not waste any time in repining, but built another nest close to the main road, which was destroyed by a pair of Bulbuls who had selected the same tree to build their own nest in. Still undaunted, and realising that the nearer they got to human habitations, the safer they were from feathered foes, they built a third nest in the identical thorn tree near my bedroom window, where I first made their acquaintance, and there laid two more eggs, rather smaller than the first two, and successfully introduced two pretty little sober coloured Sunbirds to the other inhabitants of the garden. Whether these fell victims to the native bird catchers and their limed twigs I cannot say, but dozens of these sweet little birds are caught in this way and find their way to the Calcutta market. As far as I could ascertain, the only nutriment these poor little captives get is sugar and water and a little milk, and the native bird fanciers think themselves very clever if they can get one to live even for a few weeks in captivity. I am afraid my little yarn, which began so brightly has ended very sadly, and will not encourage my readers to try their hand at keeping Sunbirds, but I hope that the day will come when we shall know more about the way to keep these living gems as happy in our aviaries, as they are in Indian Gardens.

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* **Wandering Tree-Pie.—Ed.**

[A brighter story can now be told of the captive life of these birds in this country, as we know of several which have now been over two years in captivity and have just successfully passed another moult in this country and are not not one whit less brilliant in plumage than when disporting themselves upon their native heath. Moreover they are not difficult to keep fit, providing they are protected from cold and draught. During the warm months of the year, they can enjoy the freedom of an out-door flight.—Ed.]

Birds of Gambia.

By E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 209.

PHOENICOPTERIDÆ

Phoenicopterus roseus. ROSY FLAMINGO.

Range. South Europe to Central Asia; India; Africa. (*H.L*).

During nine years I have only seen Flamingoes twice, so that they can only be considered rare visitors to the Gambia, as such large and conspicuous birds are not likely to be overlooked. The first time was in October, 1904, when I saw a pair among some Crown-birds wading in the shallows at the end of Kaihai Island, some 150 miles up the river. The second was in November, 1908, when a single Flamingo flew past Government House at Cape St. Mary, near Bathurst, so close that I could make absolutely certain with the naked eye of its identity from its long legs and neck, its form and the shape of its characteristic beak, and having glasses with me, I was able to make assurance doubly sure.

ANSERIDÆ

At least seven species of Ducks and Geese occur in the Gambia. Of these I know the first five well, but have never met with the two last here. The general native names for all members of this family are "Burro"—"Burro ba" (=big Duck) for the Geese—in Mandingo, and "Hankhel" or "Kanarr" in Joloff. The different species also have special names in both languages; of these in Mandingo I know "Biai-Sanyang," the Goose-Teal, and "Burro kuringo" or "Wutcho," the Whistling Duck; and in Joloff, "Yita," a name by which both the Spurwing and Knob-bill are known, "Kanarr ab degh" or "Liroy," the Goose-Teal and "Enen," the Whistling Duck, *Plectropterus gambensis.* SPUR-WINGED GOOSE.

Range. West and East Africa. (*H.L.*)

This large Goose is plentiful throughout the Protectorate in suitable localities, but is very shy and difficult to approach, though occasionally a flock will fly over a boat well within range, before they discover its presence. They are, however, hardly worth shooting from a "chop" point of view, as an old bird is so tough and hard, as well as nasty, as to be almost uneatable, and even a young one, although a bit more tender, does not make a very attractive dish. They frequent the river and the pools in the swamps, generally in parties of about a dozen, though often in flocks of much larger size. During the dry season they feed mainly on whatever they find in the swamps and pools, but during the rains they do great damage to the growing rice, a diet they seem to prefer above any other. They thrive well in captivity, but are terrible tyrants among ducks and chickens or other rightful occupants of the yard. Here I may remark that the common tame Duck of the country is the Muscovy.

The general colour of the Spur-winged Goose is black, glossed with metallic reflections and variegated with white on the head, neck, belly, and wings. The amount of white seems to vary in different individuals, in some of the white patches being much larger than in others. The forehead and sides of the face are naked, the former bearing a distinct frontal boss, which with the portion of the forehead between it and the bill, is a livid red in colour. The bare cheeks on the other hand are grey with a pink tinge. The wing-spur, placed at the angle of the wing, is strong, sharp and pinkish horn in colour. The iris is hazel, the bill red with a dirty white tip, the legs dull pink. Length (of an adult male) 40 inches. The female and young are smaller, and have much smaller frontal bosses, but in colour resemble the adult male.

Sarcidiornis melanonota. KNOB-BILLED DUCK.

Range. India; Ceylon; Burma; Tropical Africa; Madagascar. (*H.L.*)

"Old man Knob-bill," as he is commonly called, is much less common here than the Spurwing, and differs too in being as good to eat as the other is bad. They are generally seen singly or in pairs at the swamp-pools or flying over the river, but at times I have seen parties of six or eight.

The general colour over the greater part of the upper parts is black richly glossed with green and purple, and white below and on the centre of the lower back. The peculiar knob is borne by the male alone and disappears almost entirely at the close of the breeding season, except perhaps in very old birds. It is a black or very dark brown (the same colour as the bill), semi-circular elevation growing from the *culmen*, of which it occupies the proximal two-thirds. The legs are black, the iris dark brown.

Length 31 inches. The female is like the male, but is smaller and has never any knob on the bill.

(*To be Continued*).

Breeding of Malabar Mynahs.

(*Poliopsar malabarica*).

By Dr. P. Gosse, M.B.O.U.

This species has previously reared young in captivity, though not frequently, and I think the fact may be worth recording.

In April I put a pair by themselves in an aviary some 18 feet long by 10 feet wide, with a Berlepsch nesting box (starling size).

But April went and May also, but no sign did the Malabars show of nesting; when June came I decided to put the birds elsewhere, as I wanted the aviary for other birds. On June 12th, I went down with the intention of doing this, and was surprised to find that my arrival was causing the utmost excitement, the Malabars flying about excitedly and holding on to the wire netting. I threw in a few mealworms which were at once gathered up and taken into the nest-box. I quickly got a key and opened the lid of the nest-box, and to my great delight found two young Mynahs, apparently about 24 to 36 hours old.

By June 16th: The wing feathers were just beginning to show.

June 18th: The young were growing rapidly, and their wing feathers developing fast. I fed them with a few mealworms every hour.

I did not look at the young again till the 27th, when I found one of them grown quite large and sitting on the very decomposed corpse of its dead brother.

June 28th: The young bird left the nest and at once ceased calling loudly for food. Its first adventure was to try and drink, without any marked success. Soon the cock bird, who had been most attentive, ceased to feed the young one, but the hen continued to do so until the end of July, by which time the offspring was almost as quick at catching a mealworm as its parents.

One thing struck me as being interesting.—Although these two birds were in a small enclosure with a nest-box in a prominent position, I never once saw one of them go in or out of the box, or take any notice of it, or do anything to make one for a moment suspect that they not only had a nest, but that incubation was going on. Even late in the evening I have often noticed the two old birds, apparently quietly roosting in a shed some way off from the nest.

Starlings Breeding in Captivity.

(*Sturnus vulgaris*).

By W. Shore-Baily.

One morning, early in the spring of 1911, my gardener brought to me a Starling that he had caught in the potting-shed. At that time I had several species of foreign Starlings in one of my aviaries, so I told him to turn it in with them, thinking, that in time it might make friends with one of them and that I might get some interesting hybrids. However, nothing happened, and as in the autumn, nearly all the birds in that aviary died from bird-fever, contracted from a pair of Rufous-necked Weavers, which were put into the aviary without being isolated for a sufficient length of time, I took no further notice of it.

This spring the Starling (♀) and a hen Cowbird shared the aviary with a couple of pairs of Parrakeets, and a pair of Cockateels, and they had to live entirely on the seed provided for these birds. To my astonishment one day, I saw a cock Starling in the aviary with her, it only remained one day, during which time it looked very depressed, as a seed diet evidently did not suit it, how it got in and out remained a mystery, for diligent search failed to reveal any opening, as we thought, large enough for the Starling to get in or out.

A few days later, the writer was going a round of the nest boxes, to see if any of the Parrakeets were nesting, when, in one of the banjo-shaped boxes he uses for these birds, he found a well constructed nest and a clutch of four eggs, which the Starling had just commenced to incubate. In due course three young birds were hatched, and I was much interested to see how long they would survive without a supply of live food. I supplied "Dryko" in addition to the seed mixture, also a little stale bread. After four or five days I discovered that the cock Starling had returned and was bringing in grubs and other insects from the outside. Most careful watching failed to reveal how he got in and out, and I thought for some time that he was feeding the hen through the wires, but at last I happened to see him come out of a hole that looked too small for a mouse to come through. Though he must have been in and out frequently, he was never seen in the aviary (after the first occasion) till the young were fully grown. I stopped up the hole he was using as an exit and the next morning he was trapped, but as he seemed quite unable to find his entrance hole from the interior, after an hour or two I removed the obstruction from the hole he had been using as an exit, and he very quickly found his way out, taking two of the young ones with him.

The hen I still have, as she is, I suppose, too big to use either of the holes. I hope to cross-mate her next year.

Jamaica Pea Dove.

(*Zenaida amabilis*).

By Dr. G. B. Thwaites.

Early in May a pair of these birds was brought over to me by a friend from Jamaica where they had shortly before been caught. In a short time a nest was made under an upturned broken flower-pot, and consisted of nothing but a few dried bamboo leaves. Two dirty white, blunt pointed eggs were laid and diligently incubated, but without result as they were not fertile; another clutch was laid in June while I was away from home and one young squab was hatched out about the end of June. I did not see the eggs, so can not say if there were two or only one, or what happened if there was a full clutch.

A third nest was made about a fortnight later, the first egg being laid on July 15th, and the other the next day. The birds took it in turn to sit, the cock, however, was much more restless on the nest than the hen, as he always got off when I passed and attacked me by hopping just in front of me and pecking at my boots. The first chick was hatched on August 1st, and while I was in the aviary I saw the cock deliberately roll the other egg out of the nest and peck at it till he released a living chick which he cast some way from the nest. I replaced it but it was immediately again discarded. The first chick is now 10 days old, well fed, and feathering nicely. It is possible that a similar thing happened with the previous nest, as only one young bird was found. This bird is now about six weeks old, and is similar in every way to the adult except that the feathers are not so glossy and the purplish spots under the ear coverts are not very well marked and more of a chocolate colour as far as I can judge without handling it. Gosse says of these birds that they nest in trees, that they are timid in captivity, also irritable and pugnacious. My pair must be an exception as all three nests were on the ground and they are most fearless and confiding (Gosse's birds were kept in a cage.—Ed.) and allow me to stroke and handle them. They certainly are pugnacious when nesting, but I have never seen them attack other birds except doves, and even these not persistently. They spend most of their time on the ground but are frequently to be seen perching. They seem fond of water and during heavy rain I have often seen them perched side by side each with a wing widely distended upwards to the wind and rain. Gosse mentions a common habit these birds have of jerking the head forward, followed immediately by an upward flirt of the tail. With regard to food they are quite happy with the ordinary Dove mixture but do not eat a great deal; they are also very fond of blow-fly pupæ, but do not touch the gentles. I can not tell the difference between the sexes except perhaps the cock is broader across the back and not so slim as his mate. They are handsome birds especially on the wing.

The following extracts from Gosse's "Birds of Jamaica," will probably prove of interest.

> "The open pastures, or the grassy glades of pimento "pens, are the favourite haunts of this pretty Dove, where it "walks on the ground, singly or in pairs. . . . The Pea "Dove is frequently seen in the middle of dusty high-roads, but "whether for the purpose of dusting, or to procure gravel, I

"cannot say, as they fly as soon as seen. When the rains have "ceased, the increasing drought renders these, as it does many "other birds, more familiar; and they may be seen lingering on "the borders of streams and ponds. Indeed, they seem, of all "our Doves, to haunt most the vicinity of water; particularly "those dreary swamps or morasses which are environed by tall "woods of mangrove. In the winter months, when the pastures "are burnt up with drought, we may hear all day long their "plaintive cooing, proceeding from these sombre groves, though "it is not much heard in any other situation. . . . . The Pea Dove subsists on various fruits, and "seeds, pimento-berries, orange-pips, hop-seeds, castor-oil nuts, "physic-nuts, maize and the smaller seeds of pasture weeds are "some of his resources.

"I kept several of these birds in a cage for nearly a "year, but they were too timid to be interesting in confinement. They could not bear any approach to them without "fluttering violently. . . . They were jealous of other birds, irritable and pugnacious. A Cashew* bird that was a fellow prisoner, they would strike at with the wing, and even if I my-"self suddenly approached, the wing was raised in defence. They "were spiteful towards an unoffending Killdeer Plover, pecking "at him so violently as to pull the feathers from his side, and "and make him cry out. I fed them with maize. . . . . "The nest is, as usual, a loose platform of twigs interlaced, with "scarcely an hollow, and no leaves . . . . . contains two "eggs of a drab-hue."

Gosse records an instance in which one of these birds tumbled about the ground in a grotesque manner, affecting inability to fly, in order to lure them away from the vicinity to its nest, which was however soon discovered, but in an inaccessible position.

Three Poeocephali.

By Rev. G. H. Raynor, M.A.

When last I paid a visit (some few months since) to the Parrot House at the Zoo, I was much fascinated with several of the beautiful inmates, notably the Mealy Rosella, Barnard's and the Crimson-winged Parrakeets, the Owl Parrot and the Citron-crested Cockatoo. But I said on my departure, to the keeper who had most intelligently shown me round : "You may keep the rest of the Parrots, if you will give me your *Poeocephali!*"; so greatly was I impressed with the charm and beauty of the various species of this genus so happily domiciled there. There were representatives of Meyer's, Jardines, Aubry's, the Senegal and the Brown-necked. The last, as we learn from Dr. Hopkinson, is very difficult to reconcile to cage-life, although the Zoo specimen, which is a male, appeared to me to be flourishing and contented. Jardine's Parrot is a beautiful creature, and according to all accounts a most charming pet, but in brilliance of coloration it must certainly yield precedence to the species called after Aubry, *i.e.*, *Pococephalus aubryi* or *aubryanus*. I was so taken with the brilliance of this bird that I felt I would give a long price if I ever had it offered me, but imagined I should have to feel satisfied if I could secure a nice specimen of the commoner *P. gulielmi*, commonly called Jardine's Parrot. But I advertised for one in vain, and was not lucky enough to obtain either of the two specimens that have been offered this summer under the heading of "Foreign Birds" in *Cage Birds*. So I closed with an offer made me by my fellow-member, Mr. Frostick, of a very excellent specimen of the Senegal (*P. senegalensis*). Like all other Senegals I have known or read of he is of a most friendly disposition and wins the good opinion of all my visitors, for he is very tame and allows even strangers to scratch his head and carry him on their shoulders. The bright green of his upper parts, and the glorious golden colouring of his breast, make up a "tout ensemble" not by any means easy to surpass. He calls himself "Reggie," and, after exclaiming "Give us a kiss," actually proceeds to do so, thereby greatly enhancing his popularity with the fair sex! He eats seeds of various kinds—millet, sunflower, hemp, canary, and a few oats, and loves a piece of cake or sugar, or a monkey-nut. But he also has much rarer and queerer tastes than this, for every morning when he breakfasts with me he climbs down my shoulder and greatly relishes pecking at the fat of the boiled bacon which I regularly consume. Little as I approve of anything in the way of meat for parrots, he so evidently enjoys his matutinal bacon that at present I have not had the heart to intercept his supply. His next move is to climb back on to my shoulder and make it quite clear that he means to have several sips of my coffee, in order to imbibe which he dips the whole length of his beak into my cup. When four o'clock comes round and I partake of China tea he is utterly disconsolate unless he is allowed to go through the same process with this fragrant beverage.

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* Tanager.

Many of my friends are pleased to consider me a lucky person, so that your readers will scarcely be surprised to hear that the morning after Reggie's arrival, I received a letter from a well-known traveller offering me a fine and tame specimen of Aubry's Parrot and expressing his willingness to send it on approval. I need hardly say that not many days elapsed before this very rare bird arrived at Hazeleigh Rectory where it now continues to reside. I say advisedly "very rare," for I believe that except the specimen at the Zoo there is no other, and possibly never has been, in the British Isles. The real differences between Aubry's and Jardine's Parrots, as shown in the two adult specimens on view at the Zoological Gardens are these :—

1. Jardine's is much larger and darker.

2. In Aubry's the forehead and shoulder patches are scarlet; in Jardine's they are orange, paling to gold.

3. In Aubry's the upper and under tail-coverts are yellowish-green and tinged with orange in the adult; in Jardine's they are a pure hard emerald green.

4. In Jardine's the wing is much darker, almost black, and the cheeks are tinged with sooty-grey.

As these points of difference do not altogether correspond to those mentioned in the descriptions of the Museum Catalogue of Parrots, I herewith append these two descriptions, and must, in passing, express my best thanks to Mr. Tinniswood Miller for so kindly copying them out on my behalf, and, as it turns out, for the benefit of your readers :—

Poeocephalus aubryanus. AUBRY'S PARROT.

"Very much like *P. gulielmi* but the red colour of "the forehead, bend of wing, metacarpal edge, and thighs "with *no yellowish tinge*; upper mandible white, or black "with a yellowish patch near the base; lower mandible "black; feet dusky. Total length 11.5 inches, wings 7.7 "inches, tail 3.2 inches, bill 1.35 inches, tarsus 0.7 inches."

"*Young.* Has less red on forehead, bend of wings "and metacarpal edge; *thighs green.*" (B.M.C., Vol. XX).

P. gulielmi. JARDINE'S PARROT.

"*Adult.* Green; sinciput, bend of wing, metacar-"pal edge and thighs '*yellowish scarlet*' (Jardine) or *yel*-"*low-orange*; lores black; interscapular region, scapulars, "upper and under wing-coverts black broadly edged with "green; lower back, rump, upper tail coverts and lower "parts bright green with the bases of the feathers black-"ish; quills blackish, the primaries narrowly edged with "olive on the outer web, secondaries more or less edged "with green; tail black; the tip of the maxilla and the "whole of the mandible greenish black; the base of the "maxilla, cere, and bare space round the eye flesh-colour; "tarsi and feet greyish black (Jardine). Total length a-"bout 11 inches, wing 7.4 inches, tail 3.2 inches, bill 1.3 "inches, tarsus 0.62." (B.M.C., Vol XX.)

"Jack," as I now call my Aubry's, is undoubtedly a very good-looking bird, his scarlet patches contrasting very vividly with the dark green colour of his body, but his beak seems rather large in proportion to his other members, at any rate, as compared with my Meyer's and my Senegal. His diet is similar to theirs, and he has learnt to eat spray-millet and seedheads of marigold (*Calendula*) since he came into my possession. Fruit, such as plums and cherries, he keenly appreciates, and cracks the stones with considerable ease. I had some difficulty at first in persuading him to leave his cage, but he is now invariably ready for his daily outing, and now and then indulges in a bath, and I quite hope to tame him sufficiently to come upon my shoulder and allow his head to be scratched—but there is no doubt that his beak is a very formidable weapon! I got very few particulars from his vendor, but don't think he has been very long in England, but what concerns me chiefly is the welcome fact that he seems strong and healthy, and thoroughly acclimatised.

As for the third species of *Poeocephalus* which I delight to own, there is but little need to say that it is "Bessie," the well-known female specimen of Meyer's Parrot, about whom a great deal has been said and written; so I will only remark here that she is now about half-way through her moult, shows no sign of ageing, and is as active, beautiful, and friendly as of yore.

It is my ambition to see these three lovely birds—Bessie, Jack, and Reggie—arrayed side by side at the forthcoming Crystal Palace Show, where I feel sure they will worthily exemplify the beauties of their delightful genus, and charm all true lovers of what is certainly the most wonderful of all the avian tribe inhabiting this fair earth—to wit the noble family of Parrots.

A Trichoglossus x Lorius Hybrid

By Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley.

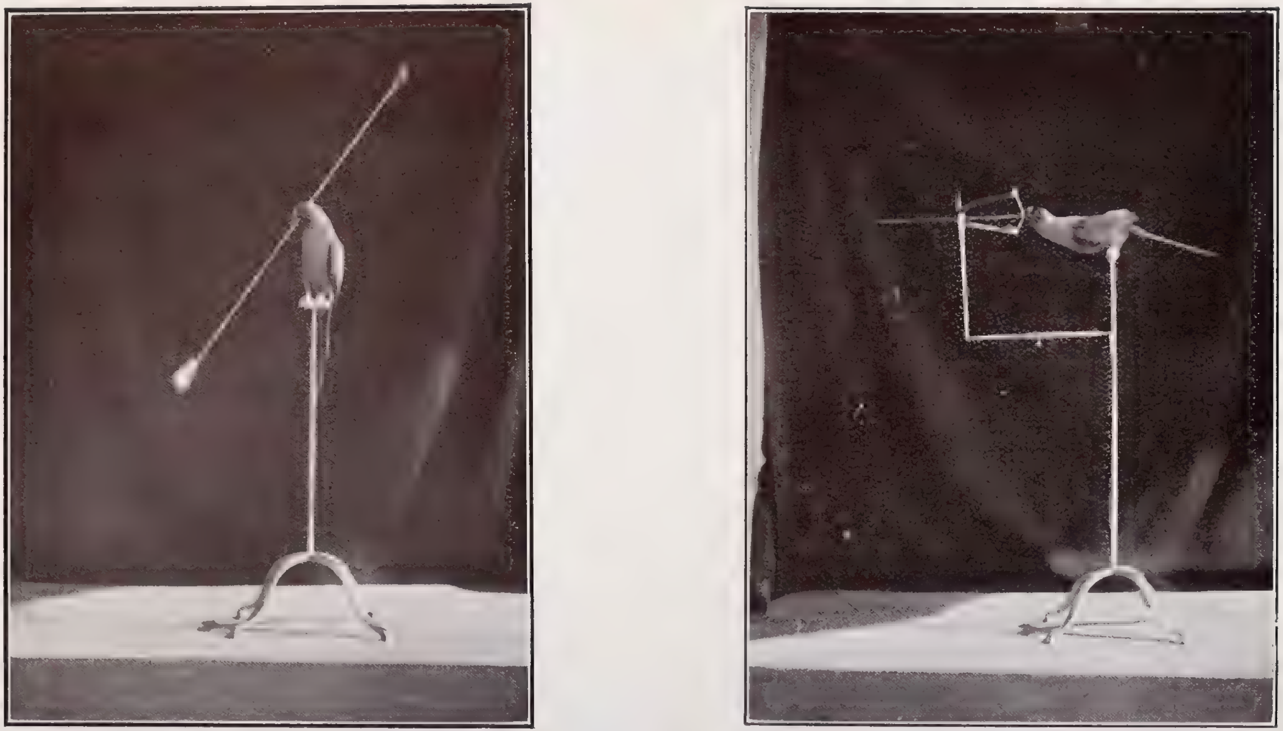
Being a candidate for the Society's Medal, I am told, an account of the birds, for which I make my claim, is a part of the conditions.

Had they been pure bred I should have written this with a greater amount of interest, for I object to crossing as an interference with Nature, which should be avoided if possible, but one cannot always arrange these things.

Swainson's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus novæ-hollandiæ*) otherwise the "Blue Mountain," has bred before in confinement, but there is no instance of the Chattering Lory (*Lorius garrulus*) having done so, according to our Editor's list. These young ones are a cross between the two, and not to the advantage of either, I should say, but then I take a prejudiced view. However, they are pronounced a very handsome pair, and I will proceed to a description since Mr. Page seems to think it will be of interest. They are already larger than their father, the "Blue Mountain," though they only left the nest a few days ago, being more the size and robust build of their Mother *Garrulus*, who, by the way, celebrated the occasion by immediately slaying a favourite old cock Ring-neck, the only other occupant of the enclosure. They are alike in plumage, the whole of the crown extending to the line of the eye is purple, each little feather having a golden tip, and as these purple feathers extend further down the back of the neck, each has a green tip, which gives a bronze hue to the whole. The back and wings are green, the latter lacking at present, anyway, the beautiful yellow shoulders of the mother. The tail is green and pointed like the male parent, but very different to that of the female, which is mostly red, and broad. But they have her expansive crimson breast, and throat, and this colour extends to the thighs which are green, as is also the continuation beneath. The head is round, and childish looking, unlike the hawk-like contour of the parents, the eyes dark as yet, of course, and the beak black, another indication of extreme youth, I suppose; that of both parents being red.

The Lories nested in a small mustard barrel; an old tin bucket, with half the bottom knocked out, fastened over one end, forming a kind of vestibule, to make the apartment more commodious. The whole family slept every night in this dwelling until the young left the nest, and how they managed to pack in I could never quite understand (two years ago the "Blue Mountain" mated with a Violet-necked Lory, but they failed to feed the young when hatched, so nothing came of it). They have been supplied with bread and milk made very sloppy, and mixed with currants, and sultanas, cup-custard, and baked custard, and a wedge of jam and sponge sandwich dipped in water, of which they seem very fond; indeed it was the first thing I saw the youngsters eat "on their own" in their quaint lapping fashion. The hen is, I think, going to nest again, as she now spends her nights in the barrel alone.

I may add by way of warning,—I think I saved the life of these bantlings, when about a month old, by interference, which is usually regarded as inadvisable. One day I heard only one squeak instead of two, the next morning I could put up with it no longer; so procured a high stool and mounted to the nest. There they were—one all but dead, the other showing but little sign of life and in an "Augean Stable" over which I will draw a veil. I dragged them out by their poor little cold feet, got them in to the the fire, wrapped in warm flannels, and poured brandy and warm milk down them with a shaking hand. This, then, I thought, is the end of my avicultural hopes for this year; but gradually I saw them revive, and, when sufficiently recovered, I washed them in warm water, it was venturing a great deal, but there was nothing else for it. The nest was brought away and scrubbed and dried, and after a few hours restored, with one of the young ones in it. The other, the



Twirling the Balanced Rod. Drawing the Long Bow.

Mr. Ezra's Performing Ring-Neck Parrakeet.

worst of the two, I kept on a hot-bottle for 24 hours, and fed with a quill. It was kill or cure, but the old birds didn't seem to mind and returned at once to the barrel when it was replaced. Every morning after that two hands full of clean, dry saw-dust was placed in the nest, and two hands full of soiled, damp ditto taken out, and all went well. This is not a nice part of the story, but at the request of our Editor, who has seen and taken a kindly interest in these hybrids, I relate it as possibly being of service to the owners of other nesting Lories.

[We trust Mrs. Hartley will keep carefull records of the development of these hybrids, and duly report any plumatic changes, etc., that may occur.—Ed.]

Visits to Members' Aviaries and Birdrooms.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

MR. A. EZRA'S BIRDS.

During the early days of August I had the privilege of visiting Mr. Ezra and seeing his birds, which are all housed in a spacious, well ventilated and lighted room, in cages giving ample space for exercise, all looking very fit, though some new acquisitions were in rather rough plumage, but I will tabulate my notes in the form of a list.

Performing Ring-Neck Parrakeet (*Palæornis torquata*). This bird was one of the tamest I have ever seen, and I have never seen a bird in sleeker or better plumage. This bird, purchased from a native in India, who had trained the bird (starvation being part of his training process) is put weekly through all his tricks to keep him perfect, but since being in Mr. Ezra's possession, she has never been on short rations, but in the matter of diet is treated just as any other inmate of the bird-room. She gets a grape or other tit-bit after going through the various items of her performance. The first item of the programme for my benefit was twirling the rod; on the cage door being opened she took her stand on the appointed perch (*see photo*) grasped the rod in the middle and twirled it in all directions at varying speeds, patiently going on again and again till permission to cease was given. Another item on the programme was drawing water and ringing a bell; yet another was to bring a particular playing card to her owner, four cards were placed face downwards on the table and on being asked for one she went and picked them up one by one, examined their faces, and brought the particular card asked for to Mr. Ezra. One of her most interesting tricks was threading beads (*see photo*), a number of ordinary glass beads were placed on the table, and a piece of thread with a knot at one end and a short blunt needle at the other was given to her, and by the aid of beak and tongue alone, she threaded the beads several times for my interest and amusement. Equally clever was the shooting with bow and arrow, it was most interesting to see how cleverly she pushed the arrow into position and fitted the end against the gut of the bow before stretching the bow for the shot; it was quite evident she enjoyed the fun. Interesting was the prayer scene; the model temple is well figured in the photo. Polly's performance here consisted in drawing water for the idol, taking the offerings—coins, flowers, etc.—from the plate to the altar, then finally mounting to the pedestal and ringing the prayer bell as seen in the photo. She will retrieve anything thrown to the other side of the room like a dog, and is quite one of the most interesting birds I have seen. She is beautiful and clever, and is quite abnormal for a lady, for she does not utter a word.

LUTINO RING-NECK PARRAKEET (*P. torquatus* var. *luteus*). Many of my readers saw this bird at the Horticultural Hall last November, and it is only necessary for me to say that though partially through the moult, there was not a foul feather on its body, at present there is no sign of the neck ring. A rare and valuable possession.

AMETHYST-RUMPED SUNBIRD. (*Arachnechthra zeylonica*). There were two lovely males of this exquisite species, which has been several times described in our pages—one already through the moult, the other nearly so. The one of Horticultural Hall and Crystal Palace fame has moulted out an exquisite colour, the yellow of the under parts being fully as deep and pure as that of a wild caught bird. It speaks well for Mr. Ezra's skill that this has been achieved. They get

Threading Beads.

Ringing the Prayer Bell.
Mr. Ezra's Performing Ring-Neck Parrakeet.

syrup-sop and fruit, principally grapes, and eat lettuce with great gusto.

SEPOY FINCHES (*Hoematospiza sipahi*). There are three of these, all newly acquired, having been recently purchased from Mr. W. Frost; they are as yet in rough plumage, but Mr. Ezra is trying by natural feeding natural colour food, principally fruit and berries to moult them out in full natural colour and it seemed to me with excellent prospects of success.

RED-FLANKED BUSH-ROBIN (*Inthia rufilata*). This fascinating little bird, though also a recent acquisition, still bears traces of the ordeal of importation, but it already gives indication of its great beauty, slender and graceful form, and captivating demeanour. In its native haunts it lives on various insects, and in captivity thrives on insectile mixture and a liberal supply of live food.

Other beautiful specimens were: Loo-choo Robin (*Erithacus komadori*), Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), and an exquisite pair of Vinaceous Firefinches (*Lagonosticta vinacea*) in faultless condition.

I have to thank Mr. Ezra for a most interesting visit and to congratulate him on the condition of his birds -his interest in them was manifest as he passed from cage to cage, discoursing upon their various peculiarities.

LADY EDITH PENNANT'S AVIARIES AND BIRDS.

First, I must express my keen appreciation of Lady Edith and Mr. Pennant's hospitality and kindness in giving up practically a whole day to me, in doing the aviaries and chatting about their inmates.

The aviaries have already been described in *Bird Notes*, but a sketchy description will not come amiss.

AVIARY No. 1.: This is an ornate substantial building, of brick and iron, consisting of a large shelter, with hot-water service to maintain a minimum of 50 deg. F. during the winter months—well ventilated and lighted. To it is attached a large flight, with creepers trained over the exposed side and growing through the netting in it stand numerous large shrubs in pots, there is a grass-plot, and concrete bath, everything was in good order and strictest cleanliness prevailed - the conditions generally bespeaking personal care and supervision. This is the main aviary and in it most of the stock are housed during the winter.

At the time of my visit its occupants were:—

1 pair White-crested Jay-Thrushes (*Garrulax leucolophus*).
1 pair White-throated Laughing Thrushes (*Garrulax albigularis*).
1 pair Black-winged Grackles (*Graculipica melanoptera*).
1 pair Australian Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).
2 pairs Archbishop Tanagers (*Tanagra ornata*).
1 pair Green Glossy Starlings (*Lamprocolius chalybeus*).
1 hen Orange-headed Ground-Thrush (*Geocichla citrinus*).
3 Tri-colour Tanagers (*Calliste tricolor*).
1 Cuban Red-legged Thrush (*Memociclila rubripes*).
1 Gold-fronted Green Fruitsucker (*chloropsis aurifrons*).
1 Hill Mynah (*Mainatus intermedius*).
1 Black-crested Bunting (*Melophus melanicterus*).
1 Green-backed Tit (*Parus monticolus*).
1 Shama (*Cittocincla macroura*).

An interesting series, in perfect condition, most of them quite tame, and the Mynah a quaint and interesting specimen articulating several words very clearly.

The Garden Aviaries, Nos. 2, 3, and 4, have perhaps one fault. viz., lack of head room, nevertheless they are well arranged, having plenty of natural cover, with a shelter attached to each, the exposed corners are boarded up and covered over, forming triangular shelters where the birds can rest secure from wind and rain during inclement weather and yet be in the open. The whole of the aviaries look very effective amid the environment of a lovely garden and shrubberies.

Aviary No. 2: This is the newly arranged Tanager aviary, where the natural cover has yet to develop; but all the birds were looking well, in good feather, and fit in every way. In this aviary have been reared two Palm Tanagers, the first of their kind to be fully reared in Great Britain (*see pages* 212 *to* 214 *of current vol.*). Its occupants are as follows:—

1 pair Magpie Tanagers (*Cissopsis leveriana*).
1 pair Palm Tanagers (*Tanagra p. melanoptera*) and their two offspring.
1 pair Scarlet Tanagers (*Rhamphocoelus brasilius*).
2 Blue Tanagers (*Tanagra cœlestis*).
1 hen Black Tanager (*Tachyphonus melaleucus*).

1 Palm Tanager (*Tanagra palmarum*).
1 Ruff and Reeve and 1 Indian Wagtail.

AVIARY No. 3: This aviary has excellent natural cover, both as to bushes, evergreens, and herbage. The birds thrive in it and there are annually some breeding results. Here I saw the female Pope Cardinal, bred here in 1911, whose history appears on pages 156-7 of current volume. Also young Californian Quail were seen scuttling from cover to cover. This aviary contained:—

1 pair Rosy Pastors (*Pastor roseus*).
1 pair Mexican Sparrows (I think, *Sycalis arvensis*, but could not get close enough to be sure).
1 pair Virginian Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*).
1 pair Pope Cardinals (*Paroaria larvata*).
1 Pair Pekin Robins (*Liothrix lutens*).
1 pair Blackbirds (*Turdus merula*), the cock a pied specimen and the hen a true albino.
1 pair Cape Sparrows (*Passer arcuatus*).
1 pair Black-headed Nuns (*Munia atricapilla*).
1 pair Californian Quails (*Lophortyx californicus*).
1 hen Green Cardinal (*Gubernatrix cristata*).
1 Dyal Bird (*Copsychus saularis*).
1 hen Albino Sparrow (*Passer domesticuss*.
1 Mocking Bird (*Mimus polyglottus*).
5 Senegal Doves (*Turtur senegalensis*).

AVIARY No. 4: Similar to No. 2 and 3, but smaller, most of the cover being artificial. This might well have been called the Waxbill aviary as little else was to be found therein. It contained pairs of the following species:—

Grey Waxbills (*Estrilda cinerea*).
Orange-cheeked Waxbills (*Sporœginthus melpodus*).
Orange-breasted Waxbills (*S. subflavus*).
St. Helena Waxbills (*Estrilda astrilda*).
Red Avadavats (*Sporœginthus amandava*).
Black-headed Nuns (*Munia atricapilla*).
Spice Finches (*Munia punctulata*).
Sharp-tailed Finches (*Uroloncha acuticauda*).

All looking as fit and happy as could be—some were nesting.

THE CRANES PADDOCK: This was a large piece of ground, containing several trees and bushes and a small pond, the whole enclosed with iron fencing and wire netting. It was occupied by but six birds (3 pairs), but every bird was a specimen indeed and the three species kept are certainly

in the writer's opinion, the pink of the Crane-tribe, viz.:—
1 pair West African Crowned Cranes (*Balearica pavonia*).
1 pair Stanley Cranes (*Authropoides paradisea*).
1 Demoiselle Cranes (*Anthropoides virgo*).

One could watch the beautiful plumage, interesting deportment, and quaint display of these lovely creatures unweariedly for quite long periods, and I have never seen better species of their kind, or in a better setting than those referred to above.

Lastly I must not omit to mention pairs of pinioned Magpies and Australian Crows, which wander at will about the garden and grounds and most interesting and quaint creatures they are, having no fear of man or beast—the latter a cross-mated pair of White-backed and Black-backed Crows lay one or more pairs of eggs annually, but up to the present all have proved infertile. The Crows are talented pipers. Favoured with fine but cool weather, doing the aviaries and birds and exchanging birdy episodes, time passed all too quickly, but the pleasant memories of a most interesting visit will long remain.

Recent visits to the aviaries of Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley, Lady Webster, H. Willford, and Rev. J. M. Paterson, I must leave for another instalment.

(*To be Continued*).

British Bird Calendar.

This feature has been suggested several times, in the first place by Mr. Teschemaker three or more years ago, and quite recently by Dr. P. Gosse. If members will only take sufficient interest in it to send in records for their district (observations preferred to cuttings) of rare visitors. Migration movements; nesting notes, etc., according to the season, the innovation should prove not only an interesting one, but the gathering together of facts of permanent value.

While we do not propose to follow any fixed method, the more convenient form will be a short paragraph or bare record with dates. Each record will bear the initials of the sender. A list of initials and names to appear at the end of each volume. —Ed.

One wonders, that with such a season as we are experiencing, how our delicate summer visitors have existed and a further puzzle to me is, that the very frail Willow

Wren has succeeded in rearing what appears to be quite normal broods, whereas, the much hardier Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, and Blackcap, have fared so badly.

It is, however, a fact that in this district the Willow Wren (birds of the year), are quite up to other years numerically, whereas, the only Whitethroat seen in my garden was an adult bird (caught and rung) and to date only two Lesser Whitethroats have been trapped, and only one seen on the wing.

The following comparative lists of birds actually caught and rung, with the same number of traps speak for themselves:—

1910—July and August.

Willow Wrens	26
Whitethroats	10
Lesser Whitethroats	5

1911—July and August.

Willow Wrens	13
Whitethroats	9
Lesser Whitethroats	1

1912—July and August.

Willow Wrens	60
Whitethroats	1
Lesser Whitethroats	2

The last Swift seen was on August 17th. The Swallow and Martin are still with us and I have not noticed any gatherings. Pied Wagtails are greatly in excess of their cousins, the Yellow.

Wheatears have fared very badly in this district, and the few to be seen on the sand hills are mostly adult. One does not wonder at this owing to the situations in which they build.

The Gulls, following the herrings south, are with us again in goodly numbers, the Ringed Plover, and Stint are making their way south. On the 27th inst. I saw quite 500 Knots flying high, taking a south-easterly direction.

Are some of our Warblers making another attempt at nesting after previous failure? If so they will make for the coast and pass later. Another month will solve this query.

R.S., 31/8/12.

WHEAT-EAR: Southern migration movement began August 20th.

P.G., Beaulieu. Aug. 27/'12.

THE SOUTHERN MOVEMENT: A correspondent writing me from the Chelmsford district on August 17th, says "the southward movement has begun, a large number of Swifts passed over here about mid-day to-day."

W.T.P. Sept. 2/'12.

DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS: Another correspondent from Lancashire in a letter dated August 30th, writes: "the Swifts and Sandpipers have departed, but I have already noticed several Sanderlings and Bar-tailed Godwits, two of the latter were in red breeding plumage."

W.T.P. Sept. 2/'12.

WILLOW WREN AND CHIFF-CHAFF: These two species are to be seen daily in my garden, family parties frequenting my lawn, but the former are more numerous than the latter. The Willow Wren is still here, but I have not seen the Chiff-Chaff since August 20.

W.T.P., Mitcham. Sept 2/'12.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHERS: These were in remarkable number in the fields around Denham, in Buckinghamshire, on August 25th, 1912, in suitable places, such as wire fences, half a dozen might be seen at once, and locally they were the commonest birds. Immature ones were seen being fed by the parents; these and the House Martins seeming to be the only birds that still had young to feed. Sand Martins were about in numbers near the Colne, but no Swifts were seen.

H.G., 25/8/'12.

LITTLE GREBES OR DABCHICKS: My friend, Mr. G. Crabb, promised to show me these in the neighbourhood of Denham, on August 25th, and the promise was fulfilled, as I saw two adults and their young in the partly grey plumage, looking, as compared with the adults as if it could hardly be waterproof.

H.G., 25/8/'12.

KESTRELS: These were seen repeatedly, and a pair was flying about amongst the trees, near Ickenham Halt, just after the train had left the station. This species was seen altogether seven times in one day.

H.G., 25/8/'12.

Kingfisher: Two birds, presumably a pair, were seen on the Colne, only about a hundred yards from the houses of Uxbridge. H.G. 25/8/'12.

Green Woodpecker: A nesting hole which has been known to be tenanted by this species, as one was seen to come out of it on June 1st, was pointed out to me in a very inconspicuous place in a *living* Canadian Poplar, near Surbiton. The bird was heard piping repeatedly during the middle of the day and the afternoon, but never gave us a glimpse of it at all.

H.G. 1/9/'12.

Goldfinches: These are spoken of as "common" in most books on British Birds, but only for the third time in the neighbourhood of London, did I see the Goldfinches, on September 1st, 1912. A small flock of "Greypates" as the immature Goldfinch is called by bird-catchers and others, were seen on a Surrey Common. Within a few minutes of seeing the Goldfinches, Mr. G. Crabb and I saw or heard the Yellow Bunting, Long-tailed Tit, Stonechat, Skylark (heard only), Greenfinch, Whitethroat, Linnet, and Wren (the latter singing) We soon also saw two flocks of Peewits, one of 20 birds, and the other of 75, and just after I saw and heard a covey of six Partridges. This was a total of 14 species in about as many minutes.

H.G. 1/9/'12.

Editorial.

Owing to pressure upon our time and space, these notes will be merely nominal this month.

An Unique Event. The Striated Coly has been successfully bred and young birds are now disporting in an English aviary. An account of this interesting event will appear in October "*B.N.*"

Grand Eclectus Parrots. We hear (August 23rd) that two young well developed birds, about the size of pigeons, covered with grey down, are doing well in Miss Drummond's aviary; they make their wants known by very loud sharp voices, and their parents are still very attentive to their offspring.

SWAINSON'S LORIKEET x CHATTERING LORY HYBRID: Two young birds have now left the nest in Mrs. Hartley's aviary. On August the 16th the writer saw these birds in the log, both well developed birds. We are informed that they showed their anxiety for the safety of their progeny, by promptly killing (the day the young left the nest), a Ring-necked Parrakeet, which had long been an occupant of their enclosure.

BREEDING OF MAGPIE TANAGERS AT THE LONDON ZOO: Two young *Cissopsis leveriana* left an open cup-shaped nest, built in a bush, about 6 feet above the ground, when fifteen days old; plumage similar to adults but duller. One young bird disappeared three days after leaving the nest, the other was fending for itself when 24 days old, and is still living. Incubation lasted 16 days.

Other results in the Zoo Summer Aviaries are: Two young Peale's Parrot Finches (*Erythrura pealei*) independent of their parents, and four young Crimson Finches just out of the nest (August 26th), in addition to those already announced.

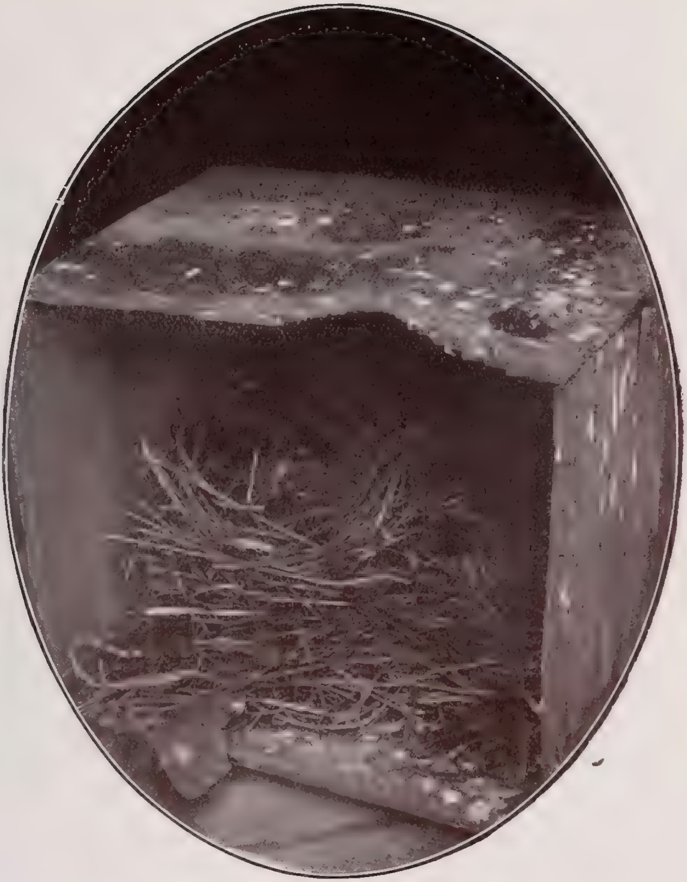
ERRATA. August issue was produced under exceptionally difficult conditions, in consequence of holiday, etc., and that there is some little revision to be made:—

Re "Aviary Notes and 1912 Breeding Results": On page 203, line 11, after "young ones" delete "," and after "this year" insert ","

On same page, line 23, after "six feet," insert *of the ground. Two aviaries were built, each* 30 x 30 *feet, with shelters* (6 x 6 *feet*) *attached;*

SPECIES WHICH HAVE REARED YOUNG IN GREAT BRITAIN: This list will be continued in October issue. Mr. Page would be greatly obliged, if members would send him particulars of any species of *Phasianidæ* which have been bred in this country those reared under foster-parents are not taken into account, as only those hatched and reared by the pair of birds producing the eggs are eligible for the list.

HYBRID LORIKEET: In M. Pauvvels' aviaries at Everberg, Belgium, an hybrid *Trichoglossus rubritorques x T. nigrogularis*, has been successfully reared and has been quite independent of its parents for many weeks.



Nest of Cuban Red-legged Thrush.

The above photo, is, we believe, unique, as being the first nest of the Cuban Red-legged Thrush (*Memocichla rubripes*) to be built in an English aviary. Mr. Shore-Baily states that the nest is rather larger than, and very similar to that of an English Blackbird; also that it was completed in a single day. A second nest was built, very similar, but in the confines of an enclosed box. Unfortunately this interesting episode was not carried any further. The above, combined with other recent happenings in aviculture, all point to the fact, that, given suitably arranged quarters, it is possible to breed almost any species that may be imported.

A Disappointing Episode: In Mr. Hoffmann's Streatham aviary, a most disappointing and rather unusual episode has occurred. The aviary was only completed in the late spring, and among others a pair of Gouldian Finches set up housekeeping and in due course young birds were heard calling for food; then the hen disappeared and a thorough search of the aviary, including all unoccupied nest boxes, failed to reveal her whereabouts. The cock parent continued to look after the young brood and everything appeared to be going on well, and judging by the noise made the nest contained a lusty brood; then, just when the young birds were expected to leave the nest, came an unexpected silence. An examination of the interior of the nest revealed the decomposed body of the female parent and three young Gouldian Finches, quite dead but barely cold -evidently poisoned by the decomposing body of their female parent. The young were well nourished and developed in every way, their crops well filled with food and apparently ready to leave the nest. A most severe disappointment for our member's first season—we hope the success of the other pairs will in some measure compensate for this annoying failure, the more annoying as success was apparently assured.

Correspondence.

NESTING NOTES, 1912.

Sir,—In response to your enquiries, there is but little to report, there have been many disappointing failures, but on the whole, the birds have done fairly well considering the appalling weather which has been very much against them.

The following have been successfully reared:—

12 Parrot Finches
3 Long-tailed Grassfinches.
4 Cuban Finches.
3 Blue-breasted Waxbills.
3 Cordon Bleus.
1 Bicheno's Finch.

The Gouldian Finches are feeding young; I am not very hopeful about them, as I have found them very apt to desert their young and start nesting again, but I am hoping these may be reared.

Cuban and Bicheno's Finches and Blue-breasted Waxbills are all incubating clutches of eggs.

My Crimson Finches hatched out, but failed to rear the young; they are now nesting again.

CYNTHIA BAMPFYLDE.

Court Hall, North Molton,
N. Devon. August 26th, 1912.

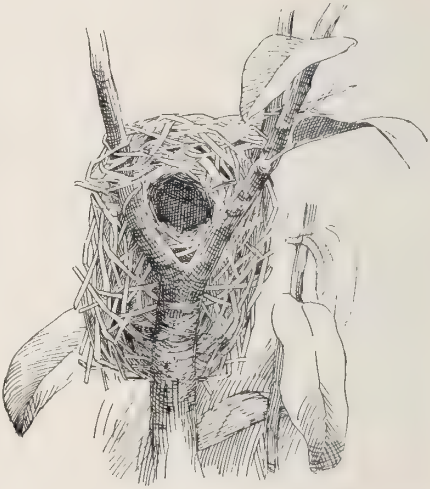
BREEDING OF GRENADIER WEAVERS, ETC.

Sir,—You may be interested to know that to-day (August 7th), a second brood of three young Weavers flew. They are very small and have the yellowish streak above the eye, similar to the Orange Bishop. Their tails are only about a quarter of an inch long.

The male parent did not pull the front of the nest down as in the first nest, but, I think this was due to two reasons.

1. That the entrance was in the fork of a branch, this branch practically covering up the front of the nest, except the entrance hole (see sketch) so that it would have been no use to pull down the front of the nest,

2. That there was such a squash with three youngsters in the nest, they were glad to get more space than the nest allowed and left without any persuasion, even if not prematurely.



The period of this brood in the nest was about thirteen days.

The Silver-eared Mesias are again incubating.

The young Long-tailed Grassfinches, as I thought, which have been reared in my aviary, are evidently Parson Finch x Long-tailed Grassfinch hybrids—a second brood are now being reared.

R. S. De QUINCEY QUINCEY.

Post Mortem Reports.

Fire Finch (♀) (Miss D. E. Pithie, Hants). Cause of death: Pneumonia.

Golden-breasted Waxbill (♀). (Mrs. Scott-Freeland, Hill Rise, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge). Cause of death: Pneumonia.

Tricoloured Tanager. (Athole C. Lowe, Notts.) Cause of death: Inflammation of bowels.

Post Mortem Reports continued on Page 59 of Inset.

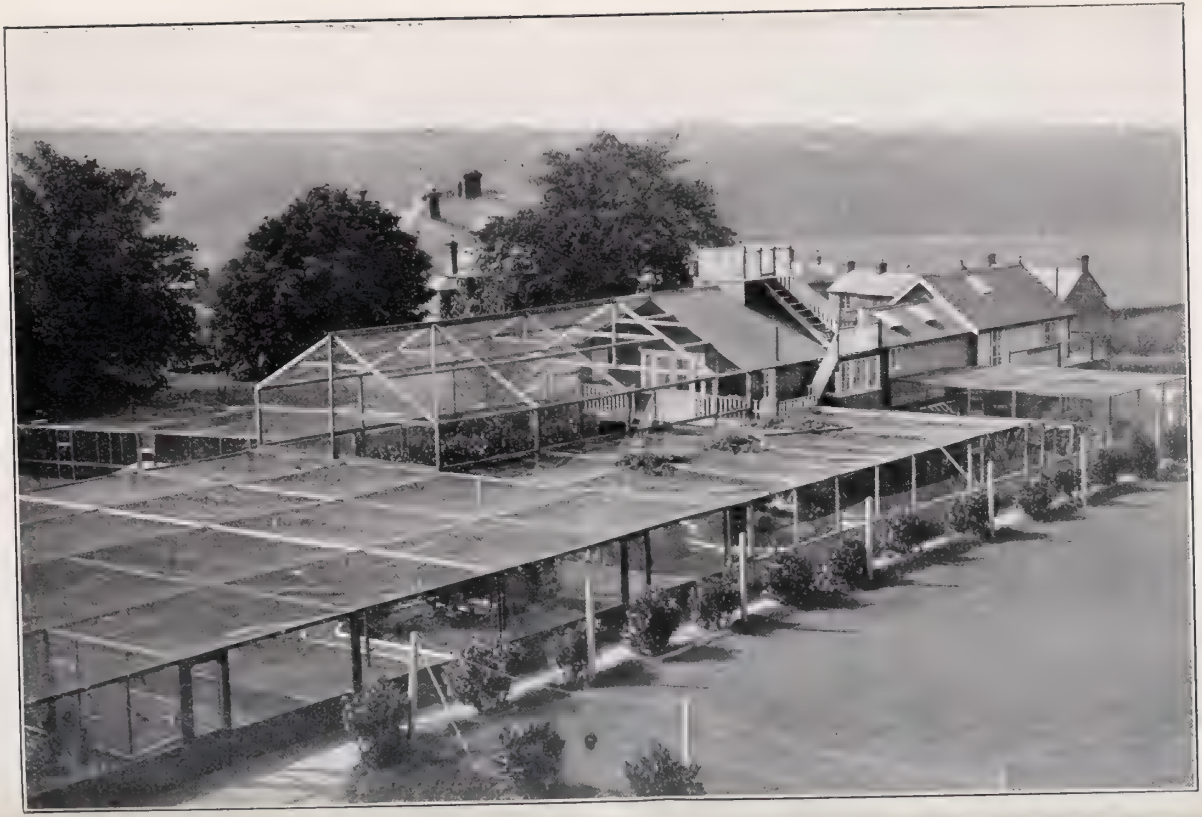


Photo by H. Willford.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Visits to Members' Aviaries and Birdrooms.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S, ETC.

Continued from page 254.

MR. WILLFORD'S AVIARIES: These have been frequently described and illustrated in *Bird Notes*, but the accompanying *Bird's eye view*, of a portion of them, will indicate how they have been perfected and what a comprehensive series they are. Moreover, their interiors have matured, and profiting by the experience of past seasons, arrangement and re-arrangement has been carried to a fine art, and these natural out-door enclosures are now practically as perfect as skill can make them.

Mr. Willford is, as is well known, an ardent and skillful photographer of living birds in the midst of their domestic life and our pages have again and again been embellished with specimens of his skill—the aviaries have been specially arranged for this purpose, that the surroundings of the various species, engaged in family cares, may be photographed amid a perfectly natural environment (see photo of Pheasants which roam amid the natural wildness of the Waders' Aviary, elsewhere in this issue), and with Mr. Willford at present the keeping of birds is subordinate to the photography of same. The aviaries have not so many inhabitants as was the case two years ago, but breeding pairs are kept, purposely to be photographed performing their domestic duties, *e.g.*, incubation, brooding and feeding young, etc. Several most successful photographs of such scenes were obtained during the course of my stay with him, some of which may later adorn our pages.

While some of the enclosures are merely wilderness, enclosures of rampant wild growth—a disused kitchen garden having been covered in, gooseberry trees, almost entirely overgrown with Bellbine, making excellent cover for nesting birds, the bushes still yielding a good crop of fruit, in spite of being allowed to run wild and the attentions of the feathered occupants of the aviary; other enclosures are carefully arranged, and have areas of neatly cut grass, gravel pathways, small ponds with growing reeds and rushes, yet still perfectly natural, though showing traces of cultivation.

It is quite impossible for me to pass from aviary to aviary, writing up the occupants, and describing the nests in each—space will not permit of this, though the subject would be a fascinating one—I can only name *en passant*, some of the results and some of the nests, etc., I was privileged to see and pry into. Amid the reeds and rushes of one of the natural ponds Moorhens have nested, and thirteen or fourteen young birds have been reared, most of which were beginning to don adult plumage at the time of my visit.

GREY-WING OUZELS: One pair of these have had nine nests, with clutches of four eggs in most instances; but only two young birds have been reared, owing to them going to nest again before the broods were reared. I was specially interested in one nest, built in the fork of an apple tree, it was a typical wild nest, incubation was going on at the time. This species mostly favour a solid or artificial base for their nest in captivity.

BLACK-HEADED SIBIAS built an open cup-shaped nest in a fir tree, and hatched out a brood, but did not rear them, and were incubating again.

POPE CARDINALS: These have built several nests and hatched out broods, but will only feed for about a week.* The nests, in this instance were built amid the hops climbing about one of the aviary standards, were open, and cup-shaped.

RUDDY FINCHES: Several broods of this species have been reared, and another brood of four were being fed at the time of my visit.

HEDGE SPARROWS: In a clump of bamboo, two broods have been successfully reared—both nests and eggs being exactly similar to those found in a state of nature.

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*Four young have however been fully reared.

Photo by H. Willford.

Olive Finches: Two broods fully reared and nesting again.

Blackbirds: A hen of our indigenous species so tame that it allowed one to stroke it, without leaving the nest, though without a mate she nested and laid a clutch of eggs. These were replaced by eggs taken from a hedgerow in the garden, and were duly hatched out and the young fully reared.

Yellow Bunting: A brood was successfully reared and became fully fledged, but died almost at once, after leaving the nest.

The above records all refer to the large aviary and are not inclusive. Some of the aviaries are given up to Pheasants, of which Mr. Willford has some rare and beautiful species, viz.: Versicolor, Swinhoe's, Elliott's, Kalij, Silver, Gold, Amherst, Reeve's, Impeyan, Mongolian, and Sœmmerring's. Twenty-five young have been fully reared, mostly under foster-parents, though some have been brought up by the respective species, as seen in the photo opposite, which represents the parents and brood wandering amid the natural wildness of the Waders' Aviary.

Passing through another aviary, containing a group of Elliott's Pheasants in exquisite plumage, I had an opportunity of examining the nest of a pair of Diuca Finches, containing a clutch of eggs.

In another aviary, which, except for the paths, was a mass of tangled wild growth, wild convolvulus, climbing over and almost burying gooseberry bushes, apple trees, etc.; here, in a gooseberry bush, almost buried in a tangle of wild creepers was a nest of the Black Tanager, containing a clutch of eggs; from four nests, this pair have fully reared, but one young bird. Passing into the next aviary, similarly wild, we inspected the nest of the Grey-winged Ouzel, containing a clutch of eggs. It was a typical nest of the true Thrush-type, constructed in the fork of a branch of an apple tree, and had a mud base.

I have refrained from giving a list of all the birds seen here, as we have had many accounts from Mr. Willford's pen, and I desire that others may follow, including photos of the nests referred to in above notes.

In the various aviaries, mingling with the small Waders, etc., were some very fine pairs of our native birds and migrants: of which Yellow Buntings, Redstarts, Willow Wrens, Whitethroats, and Pied Wagtails, attracted me greatly.

MRS. E. A. H. HARTLEY'S AVIARIES AND BIRDS: I spent a most interesting two days with Mrs. Hartley at her lovely Hastings home; much enjoying the interesting recalling of many birdy episodes, culled from very many years avicultural experience. In various rooms in the house were: A Port Lincoln Parrakeet, over ten years old, in exquisite plumage and health, a knowing and intelligent bird and a great pet. A pair of Grand Eclectus (new arrivals); an equally fine Grey Parrot; also a large cage containing Gouldian and other Grassfinches. In another large cage in the conservatory were about a score of Waxbills, and small ornamental Finches—all in that condition which bespeaks care and constant personal attention.

The indigenous birds also interested me much, as they disported themselves about the garden, but none more so than the Pied Wagtails, with their charming evolutions and deportment as they foraged on the lawn, etc., I watched them with delighted interest from the verandah, while enjoying a matutinal smoke.

AVIARIES NO. 1 AND 2: These, each consisting of a shelter and wire flight, were situated almost at the bottom of the hill-side garden, their base being about one foot above ground level at one end, and two feet at the other; so were soon dry even in such a wet season as we have just experienced. These two aviaries were given up to Lories and Parrots, yet Mrs. Hartley has been able to keep ivy growing against one of the sheds, and lovely indeed the Lories looked amid the rich green, and also, in spite of their rich colours how thoroughly they hid themselves.

No. 1 contained a cock Swainson's Lorikeet, and a hen Chattering Lory, also a cock Ring-necked Parrakeet; the two former had mated and were feeding two strong and handsome young hybrids, which I had the pleasure of examining while still in the barrel-nest, but as Mrs. Hartley has told the story of these and their appearance into the wide world in our last issue, I will only tell one detail, which she omitted. Mrs

Hartley has had mishaps in the past from young Lories and Parrots falling from the barrel to the ground, and killing themselves, when almost ready to leave the nest, profiting by past experience, in this instance she had slung a wide hammock (made, I believe, with four network dish-cloths) under the nest barrel of the hybrids, and I thought the contrivance an excellent one, though happily in this instance the precaution was not needed, as the young hybrids were well developed, and able to get about well when they left the nest. Mrs. Lory's first step in the taking care of her precious charges was to promptly kill the cock Ring-neck, who had shared the aviary with them for over a year.

No. 2 aviary was given up to a pair of Red-sided Eclectus Parrots and an Orange-winged Amazon. The Eclectus have had three clutches of eggs, but have not reared any young up to the present. The birds appeared to be in robust health, and were in fine feather.

No. 3 aviary is situated at the side of the house, the front of it running in line with the front of the house, but half hidden by a shrubbery, this is a substantial and roomy construction of brick, glass, bent ironwork, and straight woven wirework. It was occupied by quite a crowd of birds, all in the best of health, and in spite of a very varied series of birds, breeding results had been good and there were many young birds about. I noted the following: Flocks of Budgerigars and Black-headed Lovebirds; Cockateels, Plum-head Parrakeets, Mealy Rosellas, White-eared Conure (17 years old), Red-wing and Ring-necked Parrakeets (veterans), Grey and Virginian Cardinals, Zebra Finches, Waxbills, Pekin Robins, Singing Finches, Cutthroats, and Java Sparrows; also Russ's Red-billed, Orange, Grenadier, and Napoleon Weavers; Japanese Buntings and many others. Mrs. Hartley kindly motored me round to Rev. J. Paterson's, Miss Johnson's, and Lady Webster's, making my stay with her a most varied and interesting one, not the least interesting by any means, being the portions, in which many avicultural episodes and successes were lived over again.

MISS JOHNSON'S BIRDS: Motoring to Ore we were greeted on arrival, rather noisily, by the Cockatoos and Parrots standing in cages in the shelter of the house. It may truly be said of Miss Johnson's birds that they were all veterans. and nearly each had a history—some most interesting accounts were given me, which space will not permit me to repeat here. I will merely give a list of the caged birds, all more or less talented, and several specimens, mostly of each species : Salmon-crested, Greater and Lesser Lemon-crested and Rose-breasted Cockatoos ; Grey, Senegal, and Orange-winged Amazon Parrots ; and a Splendid Rosella Parrakeet. All these being most interesting pets and entertaining birds.

No. 1 aviary contained: Le Vaillant's Amazons, Cockateels, Alexandrine Parrakeet, Jendaya Conure (bred by Mrs. Hartley 18 years ago), a Common Mynah (10 years old), and a hybrid Yellow-crowned x Brown-throated Conure (bred by Mrs. Hartley 7 years ago); also Red-crested Cardinals, and Chinese Painted Quails. These were all living together in amity, and in spite of the age of some of them were really grand looking specimens.

No. 2 AVIARY: Here were kept a crowd of Budgerigars, many of them with young, Cockateels, also with young; Red-headed Buntings, and a Yellow Hammer. About 30 birds bred in this aviary this season.

No. 3 AVIARY: This contained Golden Pheasants, Ring-necked Parrakeets, Cockateels, and a pair of Quaker Parrakeets with two young almost fully grown.

Another aviary at the back of the house contained: A Military Macaw, Golden Pheasants, and Barbary Doves.

A collection of birds, interesting because of their history, and I hope Miss Johnson will tell us about some of them from time to time in *Bird Notes*.

LADY WEBSTER'S AVIARIES AND BIRDS : Mrs. Hartley kindly motored me to Battle, but unfortunately Lady Webster was away, however, the butler took us round the aviaries and showed us the birds. In the house were various cages containing: Zebra Finches, various Waxbills, Firefinches, Mannikins, Cordon Bleus and Gouldian Finches, all in excellent condition.

A large hexagon cage contained a very tame and talented Greater Lemon-crested Cockatoo. I have never seen a finer or more contented specimen; so it ought to be, for its cage was most sensibly furnished with a good large branch, with the bark on, fully 4 inches in diameter with a perch about

1¼ inches in diameter. I may perhaps be permitted to point out here that all large parrots need such accommodation, and if it were more generally supplied we should hear less of cramped feet, weak legs, etc., than we do.

The various aviaries are well arranged and supply a maximum of shelter and flight ground for the space occupied. One is surprised at the number of species living in amity, in comparatively restricted quarters.

No. 1 AVIARY: This contains 50 Canaries (the bulk of them this season's birds), Zebra Dove, Bramble-finch, Linnets, Spice Finches, Greenfinches, Silverbills, Cutthroats, Green-Singingfinches, Black-headed Nuns, and an hybrid Goldfinch x Canary.

No. 2 AVIARY: Here are housed a very mixed series, but all looking very fit, in good feather, and so far living together in amity. Pairs of: Alexandrine Parrakeets, Blue-fronted Amazons, Cockateels, Red-crested Cardinals, White Java Sparrows (with young in nest), Black-headed Nuns, Cut-throats, Canaries, Linnets, Java Doves, Orange Bishops, Madagascar and Red-billed Weavers.

Odd birds: Grey Parrot, Roseate Cockatoo, Purple-capped Lory, Goldfinch, Barbary Dove, Bullfinch, Reed Warbler, 3 Pekin Robins, 5 Grey Java Sparrows, and 6 odd Weavers.

I must say that from the demeanour of the Amazon Parrots, they showed a desire to go to nest, and if this takes places, I fear they will work mischief in the aviary. The birds were all tame, both large and small, and were not unduly scared at two humans examining them and their quarters from within.

No. 3 AVIARY: This was occupied by 1 pair Rosella Parrakeets, a hen Ring-neck Parrakeet, 1 pair Black-cheeked Lovebirds, 2 pairs Cockateels and young, 4 pairs Green Budgerigars, 1 pair Madagascar Lovebirds, and a Red-crested Cardinal and Yellow Budgerigar.

One is not surprised that breeding results have been small with so many species kept together, but most of the free breeders pull off occasional broods; and the birds certainly look well, appearing perfectly contented and happy.

I find that all the space is now occupied that can be spared for this series in this issue and must reserve my accounts of the Rev. J. M. Paterson's and Mrs. Travis's aviaries till our next issue.

(To be continued).

Birds of Gambia.

BY E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 239.

Nettopus auritus. GOOSE-TEAL.

Range. Tropical Africa, Madagascar. (*H.L*).

These funny little Geese are quite common in the Gambia in certain localities, particularly in the South Bank Province, where many of the swamps are large and full of pools and lagoons all the year round. The main river itself appears to have no attractions, and they prefer the greater privacy of the waters in the swamps, and on these one finds them in small parties, swimming and diving like Moor-hens. These haunts they are very loth to leave, and when disturbed trust to their diving powers and the shelter of the water-weeds and rushes rather then to flight. These birds are most excellent eating, but are difficult to get even when shot without deep wading, or better still, a really keen small boy, who does not fear water.

Their little plump bodies and legs set on so far back gives them a funny appearance on land and greatly handicaps their walking powers, which however I do not think they ever try very much. The following description I take from Stark and Sclater's Birds of South Africa. "*Adult Male.* Forehead, sides of the face, chin, throat, and an almost complete ring round the middle of the neck white; crown and a narrow band down the back of the neck dark metallic-green, separating a pale green patch on either side of the neck; this again is separated by a narrow line of black from the white of the face and throat; lower neck all round, sides of the body and flanks rufous-chestnut, slightly speckled with green on the lower hind neck; the lower breast and abdomen pure white, and the under tail-coverts dark brown; upper surface, including the tail-coverts and most of the wing-coverts dark metallic-green; the primaries and tail-quills black; the outer primary coverts and some of the outer secondaries white, forming a longitudinal white band in the closed wing.

"Iris dark brown to bluish; bill bright yellow with a very dark brown nail; legs and feet bluish-black, shading on the hinder part of the legs to yellowish.

"Length about 12.5; wing 6.25; tail 3.0; tarsus 1.0; culmen 1.0.

"The *female* is duller in colour throughout, the forehead and sides of the face are spotted and mottled with brown; there is no pale green patch or black crescentic boundary line on the sides of the neck, the green and cinnamon freckling of the lower hind neck and upper tail-coverts is more noticeable.

"Iris dark brown, almost black; bill dusky yellowish, shading to almost black at the tip; lower mandible livid; legs bluish-black; dimensions about the same as the male."

All the birds I have shot have agreed with these descriptions exactly, except that in nearly all, the distal portions of the metallic upper tail-coverts were dull chestnut-brown.

Dendrŏcycna viduata. WHISTLING DUCK.

Range. Tropical South America, West Indies, Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*).

D. fulva. LARGE WHISTLING DUCK.

Range. America, Tropical Africa, Madagascar, India, Burma. (*H.L.*).

These two Whistling Ducks, both brown birds rather smaller than a Mallard, and slimmer and longer in the neck and leg than that bird, are both common in the Gambia, especially during the rains. At the commencement of this season flocks of thousands are to be met with both on the river and on the newly-sown rice-fields, where they can do untold havoc in a very short time. Their numbers at this season may be gauged from a tale which a former Master of the Government steamer used to tell. Once when coming down the river he ran into an immense flock of these ducks swimming on the water; they absolutely refused to move or get out of the steamer's way, and were packed so tightly that their bodies eventually clogged the paddles and brought the boat to a standstill until the corpses could be removed. So numerous, he used to add, were these, that they fed the crew and all the passengers for two days. We have all seen these Ducks in huge flocks on the water or flying over, but no one else has happened to come across them under such striking circumstances as those just mentioned, nor found them guilty of such holocaustic self-immolation.

During the rains they are spread all over the country but during the dry season, when their numbers are also much reduced, they are confined to certain parts of the river and to those swamps where large pieces of water remain throughout the year. Both their English and their Latin names fit them well, for on the one hand their call, a long shrill whistle is the first thing which attracts one's attention as they approach, while on the other hand they frequently perch on trees and can alight on a branch quite easily considering their webbed feet. Their flesh is excellent eating.

Chenalopex aegyptiacus. EGYPTIAN GOOSE.

Range. Tropical Africa to Egypt and Palestine. (*H.L.*)

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELLER DUCK.

Range. Nearly cosmopolitan. (*H.L.*)

The range of these two well known Ducks includes our Colony, but I have never yet met with them here.

PODICIPIDÆ.

Lophaethyia cristata. GREAT CRESTED GREBE.

Range. Europe; Asia; Africa; Australia; New Zealand (*H.L*).

I believe I once saw a Great Crested Grebe on the river but I cannot feel sure about it.

Podiceps capensis. AFRICAN LITTLE GREBE.

Range. Tropical Africa; Madagascar; South Asia. (*H.L.*)

This, the African Dab-chick, is found all over Africa and almost certainly occurs in the Gambia, though I personally have never seen it.

(*To be Continued*).

The Indian Magpie Robin or Dhayal Bird.

(*Copsychus saularis*).

By Rev. J. M. Paterson.

Our hardworking and friendly Editor sent me such an encouraging letter of thanks for my " yarn " about the Amethyst Honeysucker, with an urgent request for more, that I am venturing to have another try.

I am just realising that the experiences found in watching one bird are very much the same as those in watching others, and that I am in danger of writing the same story over again with only a change of names, if I keep to the same style of narrative. However, I will do my best to make this article interesting, without too much repetition.

The Dhayal Bird is a great friend of mine, and I saw a good deal of him in my garden of fruit trees, and made a close acquaintance with his habits, which I will detail as far as I can. He is about the size and shape of the Shama and is his near cousin, but somehow he looks a bit bigger because of his more contrasty colouring, which in the male bird is black and white, pure and simple.

In the early morning he is seen at his best (just as most birds are all over the world), and can be approached quite easily and watched without difficulty. During the cold weather and early spring, before his nesting season begins, he sings a loud, clear song of a short refrain, which is very pleasing to hear, but nothing like the low soft song of the Shama, which has more variety and is more continuous.

When we used to have our early morning tea in the verandah, or on the lawn, our bold and handsome friend would fly into the low branches of a tree quite close to us, jerking his long tail perpendicularly over his back, and keeping a sharp look out for any insects that might happen to be on the move in the immediate neighbourhood.

Suddenly he drops down on the ground and snaps up a grasshopper and is back again into the tree in a moment. If the *malis* (garden labourers) happen to be drawing water from the well, and flooding certain parts of the garden he has a rare good time, and so do we in watching him. As the water runs over the beds, or the grass, as the case may be, numbers of beetles, grasshoppers, ants and other insects are dislodged from the cracks in the soil and hurry away in their efforts to escape a ducking. Our perky friend is near at hand in the low branches of the neighbouring trees, and repeatedly drops to secure one of them and back again into the tree, rarely returning to the same perch again.

Sometimes another Dhayal bird comes along to have a share in the feast, and then we have a real treat. The lawful inhabitant of the garden allows no poachers to come into his own preserves, and he at once shows fight. The lust of battle overcomes the desire for food, and down they both fly on to the grass, heads low, tails up, wings ready for action, and then at each other hammer and tongs, and away goes the poacher, back to his own reserve.

When these conflicts occur in March or nearer the breeding season, if a hen bird happens to be on the scene, the two birds will keep in this attitude of challenge for several seconds, singing as they sing at no other time, pouring out floods of melody, quite equal to the Shama at his very best. Many a time have I stood entranced watching these rival combats, and only regretting that they were so soon over.

The hen bird is a sombre edition of the male, being only a dark grey where he is black, and having the central tail feathers brown instead of black. As the rainy season approaches they begin to nest. Some pairs may try to nest in April or May, in North India, but in most of such cases the eggs would be clear, or if any young were hatched they would die before they were fledged. It seemed to me that the parent birds were dependent upon the moisture in the atmosphere to enable them to lay properly filled eggs, and also to find the proper kind, and proper amount of insect food for their young. The Dhayal is a bold bird, and a grand fighter, and can defend his nest against most of his foes, but even he has to lose his eggs sometimes, and choose a nesting place more secure from foes. One pair in my garden nested in a hole in a tree about 20 feet up, and as I noticed one day that they had deserted, I sent a *Mali* up the tree to have a look at the nest. The *Mali* walked up the tree, very much after the same fashion a monkey might, using his bare feet almost as well as his hands and without much difficulty reached the hole and peeped in. He came down much quicker than he went up, and told me with an awe-struck face that there was a *gohera* (a poisonous lizard) in the nest. I, not being able to walk up the tree monkey fashion, and being unwilling to make an exhibition of myself in swarming up like a schoolboy, and spoiling my clothes in the effort, sent for a ladder, and went up easily and leisurely to have a look for myself. Sure enough there was a ground lizard in the hole, and I presumed the eggs were inside him, for they had disappeared. I sent for my saloon rifle and slew him at close range, and threw his carcase down The lizard was not poisonous, but I could not persuade my servants of the fact, nor did it make any difference to the Dhyals, as far as their eggs were concerned.

Another enemy of the Dhayal is the small fruit-bear, a kind of civet cat, which comes into the fruit-trees and and takes his fill at night time, and eats any eggs he may come across. The safest position for the Dhayal to choose for his nest is rather low down, and near a road or footpath. Whenever I have found nests in such a position the young ones have always been reared successfully.

The materials used for building are twigs, coarse grass, tendrils of plants, and fine roots, very roughly placed in the bottom of some hole in a tree and not at all neatly made. The eggs vary from two in number to six; the average clutch numbers four. Once I found a nest containing six eggs. They are rather bigger than a Sparrow's egg, of a pale bluish brown, and sometimes the spots form a blotched ring at the larger end.

On one occasion, when a military tournament was being held in the Public Gardens of the State, the little Maharaja, aged five years, was present and was accompanied by a large following of liveried attendants. I had just been released from my share of the duties of the afternoon, which was to act as one of the judges, and I went off to watch a pair of Dhayals, whose movements had attracted my attention far more than those of the competitors. The Dhayal birds in fact, had told me that they had a nest of young ones in a hole at the back of a tree on the other side of the racecourse, and I was naturally very anxious to find out if their information was true. As I moved off to get round the racecourse I passed the little Maharaja, and ventured to tell him what the Dhayals had told me. His youthful Highness became much interested, but sagely demanded how I could understand what the birds said. My reply was a suggestion that he should bring his honourable self to the place and see if my words were not true. He promptly left his gorgeously attired guardians, and placing his hand in mine, walked with me to the tree, and there sure enough was a hole and four half-fledged Dhayals in it. As I took one out of the nest, and gave it to his little Highness, the mother bird came along in a great state of anxiety, and almost alighted on my hand, but thinking better of it settled on the tree a few feet off, and began cluck-clucking in a very angry manner, jerking her tail up in a most excited way. The little bird was replaced, but next morning when I came along at an early hour, thinking that I might purloin one for my own aviary, lo! they were all gone, for someone had been beforehand with me. I never hoped to see them again, but a very few days afterwards when I paid a visit to the bird-keeper at the State Aviaries, I saw all four young Dhayals in a small bamboo cage, being fed by an attendant with small pills stuck on the end of a split bamboo, which pills were composed of a mixture of pea flour, wheat flour, and clarified butter. I suggested that he should bring in a daily allowance of grasshoppers, beetles, and flies, and so add a little variety to the diet. This he sometimes did and I have no doubt that the Dhayals were the happier and better for it.

I hope the day will soon come when the native bird fanciers of India will adopt more hygienic methods of bird-keeping, for at present their aviculture consists chiefly of dirt and bad food, with which they try to keep alive birds in miserable feather, in absurdly small cages. I feel sure that if they learnt some of our English methods, they would and perhaps send more on to us, than is the case at present.

Nesting (1912) In My Indian Aviaries.

By Major G. A. Perreau, F.Z.S.

These notes I have compiled from private letters from Major Perreau, using his phraseology as far as possible, in fact merely connecting them up a little, where rendered necessary by having to extract from different parts of the letters. I have taken the liberty of putting them under Major Perreau's name.—Ed.

Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californicus*): What a waste of eggs there is with this species! First clutch not incubated; second clutch numbered 16, from which four chicks were hatched and three reared. About 66 eggs in all were laid.

Speaking of Quails generally, they seem to give rather unsatisfactory results, inasmuch as though very prolific layers, many of the eggs are infertile, and many others are only partially incubated; probably I have too many kinds together, and later, when some of them became more steady the rains came. Rain Quail (*Coturnix coromandelica*) have laid dozens of eggs (certainly over 60), but all have been either infertile or only partially incubated. The Button Quail (*Turnix dussumieri*) lay a bit, but the cocks are evidently no good. The two aviaries occupied by the Quails contain plenty of good cover, both natural and artificial.

[This experience is pretty general; in my aviaries this year one pair have had four clutches, 20, 17, 19, and 20 respectively. Only the second clutch was incubated, and from seventeen eggs, sixteen chicks were hatched, nine being fully reared and are now in adult plumage.—Ed.]

Cuba Finches (*Phonipara canora*). I like these little chaps, though my pair seem to lack patience, having nested several times without fully rearing any young birds. They are now (July 4th, nesting again and as the aviary teems with small insects now they may do better.

Stanley Parrakeets (*Platycercus icterotis*). Indian aviaries, as well as English ones, have their pests to contend with, as the following indicates: I had six fine young ones in the nest, almost ready to leave, when a snake got in and pouched five of them, fortunately I interfered in time to save the sixth, which is now out of the nest and fending for itself.

RED ROSELLAS (*Platycercus eximius*). These have not done so well as usual up to date (June), only one young bird having been reared, still there's plenty of time yet.

RED-RUMP PARRAKEETS (*Psephotus hæmatonotus*). These have done well with me, one brood has been fully reared, and from a second brood of four two have just (June) left the nest, and the other two will soon make their exit.

PILEATED AND BARRABAND PARRAKEETS: A pair each of these species have occupied the same aviary ; they have interfered with each other somewhat and there has been some disagreement, but nothing serious has occurred. The Pileated Parrakeets (*Porphyrocephalus spurius*) nested first and the hen sat very steadily on clear eggs, at this time time the Barrabands (*Polytelis barrabandi*) were about to nest and were distinctly top dogs though very quiet before. I ought really to have moved them when the Pileateds first laid, but was too busy, and when the Barrabands began to incubate there was peace. The Pileateds (at least the hen) have reversed the position of affairs and are now "top dogs," being about to nest again. Meanwhile all has gone well with the Barrabands and there are four young birds, one of which came out of the nest for a short time but went back again, and as the Pileateds have begun to incubate the young Barrabands may be safe.

Of the Common kinds, Cockateels, Budgerigars, and Black-cheeked Lovebirds have all done well and there are small flocks of each fully reared.

The Finches have not done well so far, there are crowds of young Zebra Finches, Saffron Finches are breeding too and giving fair results, Long-tail Grassfinches have reared two young birds, but Gouldian Finches and others have given very unsatisfactory results up to the present.

[It must be understood that the above extracts do not cover the whole of Major Perreau's birds, nor yet the whole season, they are from two letters, running up to August 10th. We hope Major Perreau will tabulate the years doings, with details of the demeanour of the birds, together with any "happenings" which interested him for an early issue of *Bird Notes*.—ED.]

British Bird Calendar

We hope members will take sufficient interest in this feature to send in records from their districts (*observations preferred to cuttings*) of rare visitors, migration movements, nesting notes, etc., according to the season.

The success of the innovation depends on the members, as intimated above; if records are sent in from all districts, not only will success be secured and the innovation become permanent, but facts (records) of permanent value will be gathered together.

While we do not propose to follow any fixed method, the more convenient form will be a short paragraph or bare record with dates. Each record will bear the initials of the sender. A list of initials and names will appear at the end of each Vol.—ED.

MIGRATION NOTES.

September 6th.—Three young Swallows still in nest, ready to fly; they were a second brood.

September 11th.—Heard the Chiff-chaff singing. Flushed a Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) in the evening on the shore of the mill pond. An extremely rare bird, especially in Hampshire. A cold day with a northerly wind.

September 13th.—Saw a male Ring Ouzel, evidently on migration; also a Land-rail.

September 18th.—Heard and watched a Chiff-chaff singing in my garden. This was a particularly warm sunny day.

September 23th.—Heard and saw the Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

September 25th.—Saw five Tree-Pipits (*Anthus trivialis trivialis*) feeding in Matley Bay, near Lyndhurst; also about thirty Swallows nearer to Beaulieu.

September 28th.—One House Martin seen.

September 30th.—About thirty Swallows at East Bolre.

P.G., Beaulieu, S. Hants.

BRITISH BIRD MOVEMENTS: The wind has been northerly and north easterly during most of September, and this may account for the scanty numbers of birds on the N.E. coast.

I have not seen a Blackcap, Whitethroat or Lesser Whitethroat during September, and only three Willow Wrens.

Green and Golden Plover with a few Grey, are making their way north in flocks and straggling parties. At 5 a.m.

on the 28th of September, I saw a large flock of Starlings flying due west; they will be landing from the Continent in thousands next month.

A few Wheatears are still on the sand hills; the Swallows and Martins still remain in goodly numbers.

With the exception of Knots, Waders are scarce on the coast, they are probably in the marshy inland. Knots are passing in large flocks, taking the coastline in a southerly direction.

Ducks have too much food on the stubbles with abundance of water inland, to trouble about food on the shore at present. A flock of about 50 Mistle Thrushes, very tired, arrived about 2 p.m. September 30th, they settled on some trees in my garden. I shot one to make sure whether they were Mistle Thrushes or Fieldfares. R.S. 30/9/'12.

I saw to-day, Martins, Swallows, Chiff-Chaffs, and Willow Wrens ; also a Martin's nest containing young, which cannot leave the nest for at least another ten days.

P.F.M.G. Oct. 1, 1912.

While wandering through lovely Dovedale with my fellow member, Mr. J. H. Henstock, I was delighted to see once more the Dipper (*Cinclus aquaticus*, Bech.) in a state of nature. The river Dove is a favourite haunt of this species, and it is, I am told, almost common there. We watched one particular bird for fully fifteen minutes while it made its ablutions and attending to its toilet, on an evidently favourite piece of rock rising some six inches above water level. On our return about one hour later it was still there foraging around for "grub," returning mostly to the aforementioned piece of rock. W.T.P., Mitcham, September 7/'12.

In the same company, while driving from Ashbourne to Matlock, we noted the following species : Moorhen (*Gallinula chlóropus*, Linn.), fully 100 were noted during the drive; also several Magpies, Robins, Linnets, Greenfinches, Chaffinches. Pied Wagtails, Blackbirds, Thrushes, Yellow Buntings, Blue Tits, Common Wrens, Goldfinches, Corn Buntings, Great Tits, Hedge Sparrows (Accentors), Swallows, Carrion Crows, Pheasants, Partridges, and a flock of about 150 Green Plover flew over our heads. No note was taken of birds simply heard. Hawks are fairly plentiful in the district but we did not come across any.

W.T.P., Mitcham, September 7/'12.

Breeding of the Hooded Siskin.

(*Chrysomitris cucullata*).

BY DR. M. AMSLER.

In March 1909, I bought a pair of these charming birds from a fellow aviculturist; they arrived quite lively and well, but, the cock, as I had been warned, was "a trifle thick as he had not quite finished his moult."

As a matter of fact this was his normal condition, for he was never as slim and tight in feather as his neat little mate. This pair spent the warmer nine months of 1909, 1910 and 1911, in an open aviary with plenty of opportunities for nesting, but although they were obviously on very good terms, and never far from each other, we got no further than volumes of sweet music from the male, and once, I think, an attempt on the part of the female to build a nest; on the latter point, I am, however, uncertain, as there was a very mixed collection in the aviary at that time.

The whole of last winter the cock, who was obviously aged, and very puffy and asthmatical, and as spring approached his condition did not improve, I took the opportunity when in Bordeaux of buying two cocks, in perfect condition and feather, which I brought back to England.

On my arrival, I found as I expected, that the old cock had departed this life, and I therefore introduced one of the new comers to my hen. As I have this year changed my house and have had to build new Aviaries the birds were not turned out until July 7.

The Siskins shared an aviary with Gouldian Finches, Ruficaudas, Avadavats and other Waxbills.

Almost the first day I noticed the hen carrying, but nothing more happened, and my hopes fell again to zero, for I could picture one of Mr. Hubert Astley's beautiful little hens busy at work, and robbing us of the medal. In the middle of July the hen was moulting, but the cock was still in perfect feather and very attentive to his spouse, frequently feeding her from the crop. On August 24th, I again noticed the hen carring bits of felt which I had given the Avadavats as a lining to their nests. She was continually going in and out of a nest box, hung up near the roof of the shelter, but she always emerged with the nesting material still in her bill and therefore got no "forrader." The following day I examined the nest box and finding nothing in it, I placed an old Chaffinch's nest firmly in the box, and hoped our friend would line and make use of this ; she was however very indignant at my interference and began pulling the nest to pieces.

On the August 26th I found she had taken possession of a nest box previously used and lined by my Ruficaudas. This box was fortunately low down, about 5 feet from the ground and was open at the end, so that one could easily see into the nest. A very neat cup shaped nest was built, in thirty-six hours, of hay and coco-nut fibre, lined with felt and feathers, The hen began to sit at once, but no egg was laid until August 30th, the full clutch consisted of four eggs, which were laid on consecutive days—they were of the faintest possible pink colour with very minute brown spots at the broad end. Size 16 M.M. x 10 M.M.

The male bird took no part in building or incubation, but was always near the nest and ready to feed his mate, when she came off. The latter was a model sitter, and I only saw her off the nest two or three times during the whole incubation period.

On September 13 (a Friday to wit), the first and only chick was hatched, the other three eggs proving clear; it was quite naked and of an orange brown colour. On the 15th, I peeped into the nest and saw a distinct increase in size and crop, which was bulging with food. I think this consisted of sponge cake and maw seed, in fact I believe the chick was reared on these two foods (of which large quantities disappeared), and green food such as groundsel and flowering grass. Here again the cock took no direct or active part, although he was always ready to feed the hen when she left the nest.

After three or four days however she seemed to have no further craving for pre-digested food and always took her fill of maw seed, and sometimes a little hemp as soon as the food supply was given out in the morning.

On Sept. 21st I heard the chick calling for food, and again on the 24th, this time at a distance of twenty yards from the nest; on this date I again looked into the nest, the three clear eggs were still there, and the chick was now a dark brown colour and showing feather. On Sept, 26, the orange brown cross bars on the wings were clearly discernable.

On Sept. 29th (Sunday) I found the youngster sitting on the edge of the nest, and later at 4 p.m. he was squatting on the ground.

The weather was atrocious, floods of rain and a falling glass, so fearing the chick would perhaps roost outside and be drowned, I did a somewhat risky thing, and caught both him and his mother, caged them, and left the cage in the aviary, so that the hen should not miss her mate. Neither of the birds seemed to mind my interference, so on the following day I brought the cage indoors, where the birds would be protected from the night fogs, which we get here in the Autumn.

The male seemed none the worse for his enforced celibacy but I often heard him calling to the hen, who, I believe, answered him though at a distance of quite thirty yards.

On Oct. 1st I saw the chick fed by his mother on several occasions, and he also picked up and ate sponge cake himself. The following are my notes of his colour at this date.

Beak, dark horn colour ; irides, dark brown or black ; forehead, head and nape, ashy brown ; back and rump, rufous brown; chin, chest, and underparts, cinnamon brown ; primaries, dark brown with grey tips ; secondaries similar, but having the outer webs of an orange brown colour for a distance of half-an-inch from their bases ; scapulars, dark brown tipped with orange brown; wing-coverts, brown tipped with light brown ; tail, dark brown ; feet and legs, flesh colour. On Oct. 3rd, the chick was again seen feeding, and on Oct. 4th, could crack hard seed, and was flying strongly.

SUMMARY.—I gather then from my observations, that the male takes no part in building, incubation or in feeding the young. It has occured to me however that he might do so if there were several chicks, instead of only one, The incubation period is probably from twelve to fourteen days, but this point however remains to be cleared up, seeing that the hen sat from the beginning and laid four eggs of which only one was hatched. The young leave the nest in about sixteen days, and are independent at three weeks or a little later.

LATER.—On October 6th, I caught the cock bird and put him in with the hen and chick He behaved very well and occasionally relieved the hen of the duties of feeding the youngster.

If these notes be deemed unnecessarily hurried, our Editor, must be blamed, for on receiving a letter from me enquiring whether the species had been previously bred, he answered by return, confirming my hope, that I was the first to successfully breed *C. cucullata* in this Country, and demanding detailed copy for "Bird Notes," at twenty-four hours notice.

Notes on the Breeding of Striated Colies.

By A. C. Young.

Our Editor has asked me for some notes on the breeding of Striated Colies, these birds having successfully reared young in the aviary of my cousin, Mr. H. B. Wilson. This is, I think, the first time they have been bred in England Partial success was obtained towards the end of September, 1911 ,when two young birds were almost reared, only to suddenly die together with their parents either from poisoning or more probably from the effects of an early frost as the nest was situated in the open portion of the aviary.

Another two birds were obtained, which luckily (for there appears to be no difference in the plumage of the sexes) proved to be a true pair. These birds were kept indoors during the winter and turned out in April into a large aviary with a natural flight.

In a few weeks they commenced to build in a large heap of brushwood in one corner of the flight; the nest was an open cup-shaped one, consisting chiefly of small twigs, and lined with roots, placed about three feet from the ground.

Three eggs of a grey-brown colour were laid and successfully hatched after fourteen days incubation.

The young were fed almost entirely on fruit; banana, orange, and ripe pear, being supplied daily as well as the usual soft food.

In addition mealworms were thrown into the aviary, but the other inmates, such as Shamas, and Hangnests, being very much tamer, secured the majority of these tit-bits

The young birds, which closely resemble their parents in plumage, were soon fending for themselves, all three fully reared, being now about four months old.

Since then the old birds have, I believe, reared either one or two nests consisting of two or three young

At the slightest alarm the Colies will vanish into the thick brushwood, closely resembling rats, as they dart in and out, in fact even to the hand their plumage feels more like fur than feathers At other times three or four of them will hang closely huddled together from the wire roof of the flight Altogether they are most interesting birds and are well worth including in any collection.

I feel I cannot close these short notes without alluding to an interesting hybrid which was reared in this same aviary a year or two ago. This was a cross between a Red-headed Finch (*Amadina erythrocephala*) and a white Java.

The hybrid resembled a Red-headed Finch in shape and colour of beak, but was pure white, with a patch of bright red on the top of the head. The nest originally consisted of three young, two of which were unfortunately killed and the third lamed, by Parrakeets, which have now been wisely removed.

The remaining bird, although somewhat of a cripple lived for upwards of a year. No more hybrids have been produced although the Javas and some of the Red-headed Finches are still in the aviary.

In conclusion, I trust these few notes may be of some slight interest to our members.

Editorial.

The Brent Valley Sanctuary: From the October issue of the *Selborne Magazine* we glean, that the following species have nested and brought off young:—

Nuthatches—7
*Marsh Tit
*Wrynecks—8 (one brood)
Nightingales
Blackcap Warbler
Robin
Starling
Goldfinch
Bullfinch
Greenfinch
Chaffinch
Tree Sparrow
Blackbird
Missel Thrush
Song Thrush
Wren
Hedge Sparrow (Accentor)
Wood Pigeon
Turtle Dove
Flycatcher
White-throat
Lesser White-throat
Garden Warbler
Chiff chaff

*Nested for the first time in the Sanctuary this year.

The figures, where quoted, represent number of young reared.

Among the birds seen in the sanctuary, but whose nests have not been found are: Nightjars, Green Woodpecker, Kingfisher and Brown Owl.

We gather that the birds are yearly becoming indifferent to the curiosity of visitors, and are rapidly gaining a sense of security. Most of the species avail themselves of the artificial nest sites provided.

Mixed Series: Members often appear to be in difficulties as to what they can keep together, therefore one or two accounts from time to time as they come to hand, as to what are being kept together, should prove of general interest, and we propose giving such as opportunity arises.

Our member, Mr. G. E. Haggie, of Oxford, has in one of his aviaries, some 18 feet x 8 feet, including shelter, the following species :

3 pairs Cordon Bleus
3 ,, Firefinches
2 ,, Avadavats
2 ,, Lavender Finches
1 ,, Zebra Finches
1 ,, Grey Singingfinches
1 ,, Green Singingfinches
1 ,, B.H. Gouldian Finches
2 pairs Gold-breasted Waxbills
1 ,, Common Waxbills
1 ,, St. Helena Waxbills
1 ,, Orange-cheeked Waxbills
2 cocks and 1 hen Pekin Robins
1 cock Green Avadavat
1 ,, Pintail Nonpareil
1 ,, Nonpareil Bunting

The aviary is naturally planted and possesses a good amount of natural cover and is well sheltered. The above species have agreed well together, and the Zebra Finches and Cordon Bleus have reared young. A hybrid Grey x Green Singing-finch has also been reared.

Our member, Miss A. B. Smyth, of Catford, London, has kept in her outdoor aviary, during the present season, the following species:

Canaries
Cutthroats
Red-headed Finch
Zebra Finches
Redstarts
Pipit
Bullfinch
Goldfinch
Linnet
Chaffinch
Siskin
Redpoll
Mannikins (several species)
Diamond Sparrows
Gouldian Finches
Pekin Robins
White Java Sparrows
Bengalese
Silverbills
Spice Birds
Paradise Whydahs
Weavers and Bishops
Cordon Bleus
Avadavats

Bearded Tits
Blue Tits
Marsh Tits
Green Singingfinches
Saffron Finch
Combasou
Grey Singingfinches

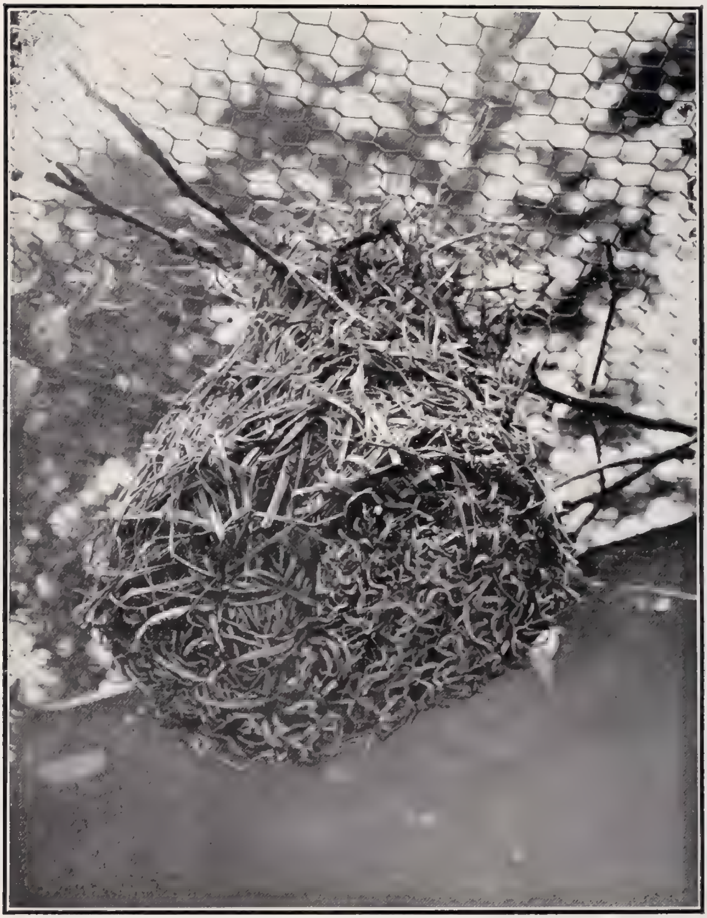
The above have all done well together, but only Zebra Finches and Cutthroats have reared young, which is scarcely surprising, considering the number of odd birds. However, the losses have been small, a Goldfinch x Linnet hybrid being the only loss during the season.

NESTING NOTES: The nesting season lingers long: We were looking over Dr. Scott's aviaries at Wallington on Sept. 25th, and saw two lusty Scarlet Tanagers, which had only hatched out the previous day, in an open cup-shaped nest built in a laurel bush. We also saw some twenty young Gouldian Finches, which had been reared this season and heard other young, still in the nest, calling for food. A young Black-headed Mannikin was also on the wing and fending for itself, this we believe to be the first time this common species has reared young in Great Britain, at least we know of no recorded instance. If any member has bred this species or knows of any instance of it having reared young in this country, will they please send in details at once?

In Mr. Page's aviary the young Orange-cheeked Waxbills, hatched out, during the wet of August, in a nest on the ground, have been successfully reared; three strong young birds are now on the wing. Here Zebra Finches, Cutthroats, Olive Finches, and Gold-breasted Waxbills are feeding young birds in the nest.

GOULDIAN FINCHES: This species has done well in some aviaries, for besides those already referred to, Mr. R. S. de Q. Quincey has 17 young birds on the wing, quite independent of their parents.

ERRATA :—Page 251, line 10 from top, for *Inthia* read *Ianthia*,
Page 251 line 3 from bottom, after netting, insert comma.
Page 252, line 13 from top, for *Memociclila* read *Memocichla*.
Page 253 line 15 from top, for *lutens* read *luteus*.
Page 253 line 23 from top, for *domesticuss* read *domesticus*).



Nest of Rufous-necked Weaver (*Hyphantornis cucullatus*).

The above photo, has been sent to me by Mr. Shore-Baily, together, with the following notes :

" The nest was built entirely by the hen and is the second she has " constructed this year. Unfortunately she did not lay, and the cock, apparently, took no interest in the operation, neither have I observed him " take any notice of the hen."

" The nest measured 9 inches in length, 22 inches circumference at the " widest part, the entrance aperture was 3 inches in diameter. It was con-" structed entirely of Pampas grass, and was so closely woven, that the " interior was quite dry during the heaviest rain."

" I venture to hope, that next year they may extend their operations " to the successful rearing of young."

Page 254 line 8 from top, for "species" read specimens.

GREY SINGINGFINCH x CANARY HYBRID: Our member, Captain J. Sherard Reeve, has sent us the body of one of the above hybrids. three of which left the nest and two are still living. The body was that of a well developed and well feathered young bird, and we opine pneumonia was the cause of its death.

Description: Crown of head, bend of wing, first five flight feathers and same number of greater wing and upper tail coverts white, slightly tinged with pale yellow; forehead, back of neck and back Linnet-brown, streaked with darker brown; wings blackish-brown with Linnet-brown margins; throat whitish, lightly tinged with brown; chest and upper breast pale Linnet-brown, with dark centres to most of the feathers, remainder of under surface palish dusky-brown, lighter in the centre of abdomen; beak, legs and feet yellowish flesh colour.

An evenly marked bird, with scarcely a foul feather—a modification of both parents—much larger than the Singingfinch, but smaller than a Norwich Canary.

Captian Reeve informs me that of the two living birds, one is very similar to the bird described above, and that the other is almost a replica of its male parent, but is much larger and has some white feathers in the tail.

SPECIES WHICH HAVE BEEN BRED IN GT. BRIT.—Our data is not yet complete for the remaining groups, but it will be resumed as early as possible, we hope in November issue.

DISPERSAL OF MONS. PAUVVEL'S COLLECTION.: It is with much regret that we announce the dispersal of this fine collection, got together at the cost of infinite labour and expense in a little over two years. Now they are to be quickly disposed of, many of them, including the Birds of Paradise, being already sold. Mons. Pauvvels has so decided, feeling he could not replace Mr. Millsum, who has been responsible for the getting together, housing and caring for the collection; but after a little more than two years in Belgium, Mr. Millsum feels that the claims of his family demand his return to England; but as he got the collection together, at Mons. Pauvvel's request he is superintending their dispersal and remains till the whole are disposed of. Thus the fine series of aviaries, so recently erected, will soon be closed and unoccupied, save the large one in Mons. Pauvvel's private garden. Lists can be obtained from Mr. Millsum, Everburg par Cortenberg, Brabant, Belgium. Mr. Millsum informs us that Mons. Pauvvels and himself are to adjudicate at the next show of the Sociètè Ornithologique de l'est de la Belgique in January next.

Obituary.

MR. TINNISWOOD MILLER.

It is with profound regret that we have to announce the death of one of our most prominent members, Mr. Tinniswood Miller, which took place under very sad circumstances on September 19th. We are sure that all members of the club will feel the deepest sympathy with Mrs. Miller in the great sorrow which has come upon her.

Mr. Miller was for some years one of our most active members, and was instrumental in materially increasing our roll ; he also was for some time Treasurer of the F.B.C., and later, member of the Council and Show Committee, and his lively interest in the welfare of the club found vent in many other ways. He leaves a gap that will not be easily filled.

He also was an active member of the L.C.B.A., and was a well known figure at their annual show, where the trouble he took in caring for the Foreign exhibits very few realise, and the fact that losses at this show were almost nil, was largely, if not entirely due to his assiduous care in feeding and cleaning.

The Club has lost a true friend, and the members of the Council, to whom his ready kindness and genial manner were so well known, do and will feel his loss most keenly.

Mrs. Miller desires us to state :—How much she appreciates the kindness of the members and Council in sending the wreath, and for the letters of sympathy which have reached her ; this has kept her from feeling utterly alone in her great sorrow.

Club Dinner.

It has been suggested to me that it would be a good idea to have a Club Dinner sometime during the Show Season now approaching. This would give members an opportunity of becoming acquainted with each other. This could easily be arranged if a sufficient number of members were prepared to support the suggestion.

The L.C.B.A. Show in November, or the Palace Show in January, would be suitable occasions for such a function, with one exception, it would take up time, that perhaps many would wish to give to the Show. On the other hand many of our members are up from the provinces during these Shows, and therefore it would be a favourable opportunity for them to be present at a Club Dinner. An alternate suggestion is that a dinner be held at some suitable central place in London, on a Saturday, and not during any Show.

If any of our members are desirous that some such arrangements as suggested above should be carried out, will they be good enough to write our Hon. Editor or myself, *giving their views*.

Of course the above will entirely depend on members. If it receives support, the dinner will be arranged, and notice of same given in due course. If not supported, it will be abandoned; as it must be perfectly obvious, that, unless a sufficient number of promises to attend are received, the project must fall though. It is suggested that an avicultural talk follow the dinner, with, if possible, lantern slides of Aviary episodes, etc. Members views are earnestly invited.

W. T. ROGERS,
Hon. Sec. Social Committee.
Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex. Oct. 3rd, 1912.

Correspondence.

BLUE-RUMPED PARROTS.

Sir,—As requested in yours of yesterday I have sent the following few particulars re my Blue-rumped Parrots to the Hon. and Rev. Canon Dutton :—

"Two pairs arrived last December, one pair passing to me and the other to the Zoo. They were all quite young and of a pale green colour. The only difference I could see in the sexes was that the male had a broader head.

"In 1904 I received a male in full colour. It would eat nothing but hemp seed, which he picked out from the other seeds and soon got ill and died.

"My present pair, however, were good eaters from the first. I gave them canary seed, white millet, wheat, a little hemp, and monkey nuts, also dried figs which they liked very much. I kept them in a room heated to about 65 degrees F. In May the female's head became reddish-brown, but the male showed no blue till the beginning of July. Both birds are now apparently in full colour. The only alteration in their diet has been the substitution of fresh ripe fruit (cherries, plums, pears, bananas, etc.) for the dried figs. Both birds warble pleasantly, the male very loudly.

"They are apt to sit motionless for a long time, reminding one of the Eclectus Parrots in this respect.

"I believe the pair at the Zoo have also moulted successfully.

"It appears to me that when these birds arrive in colour they are difficult to keep alive, but when they arrive quite young and healthy they have a good chance."

Trusting this may prove of practical interest.

L. W. HAWKINS.

WHO IS THE AUTHOR?

"Palm and pomegranate, where the tree-doves coo,
"The crested Hoopoe flits, the Roller bird
"Lights the dark thicket with his burning blue . . . ."

Sir,—Can any of your readers tell me the author of the above quotation or complete the poem. It must refer to Tropical Africa.—E. H.

Post Mortem Reports

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st. of any month

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of the F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

Cut-throat and Bengalese (A. C. Young, Newcastle-on-Tyne). Cause of death, pneumonia. I have frequently observed death arising from changing position of birds during unfavourable weather.

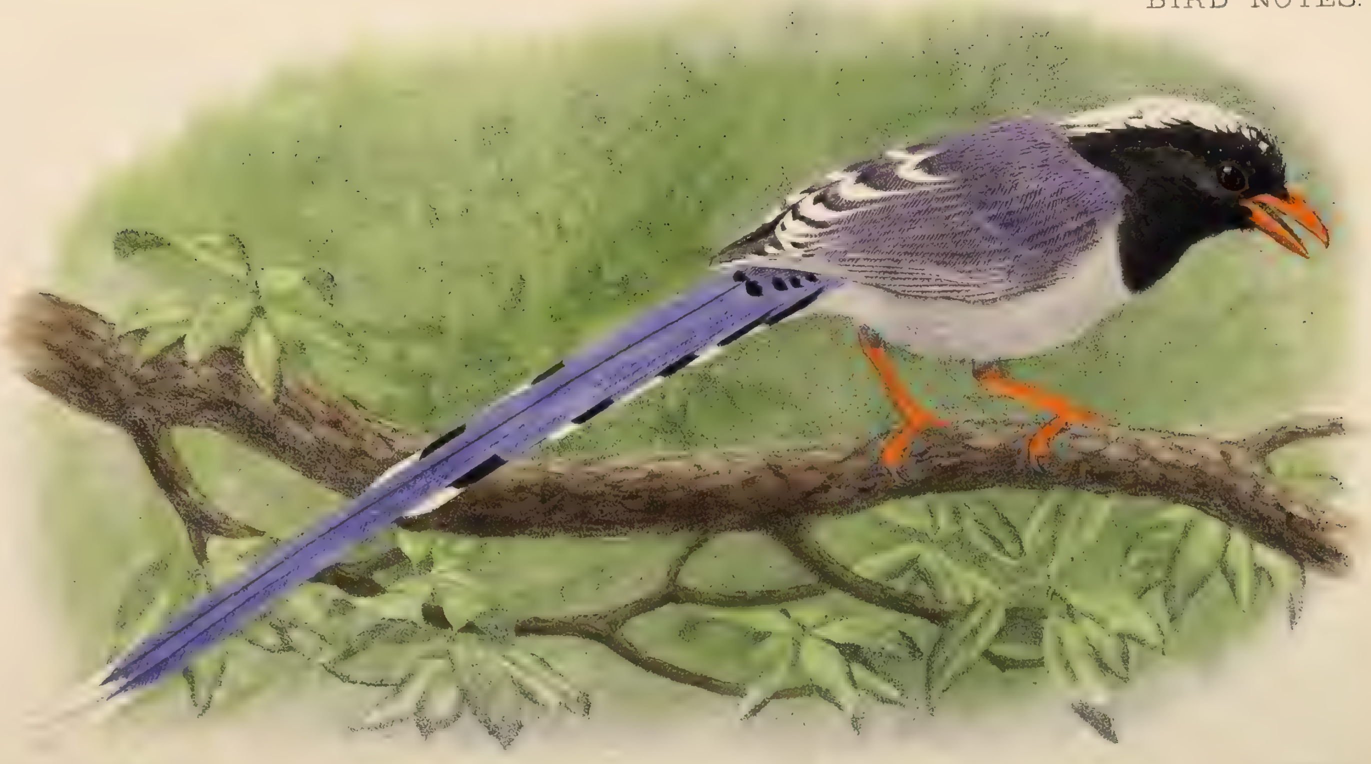
Silverbill (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, pneumonia. Bronzewing. Same cause as previous bird. Rainbow Bunting. Same as the other two.

Bunting (H. W. Adams, Market Harborough). Cause of death, inflammation of bowels.

Firetail Finch (♂) (P. Owen, Chelsea, S.W.) Enteritis; the liver was undergoing fatty degeneration.

St. Helena Finch (♀) (The Hon. M. C. Hawke, Tadcaster). Inflammation of the heart sac—pericarditis.

Answered by Post: Miss E. F. Chawner; Miss K. M. Davies; W. A. Bainbridge; O. Millsum Brabant); Major F. Johnson.



H. Goodchild, del. et lith.

Huth, imp.

RED-BILLED BLUE-PIE
(Urocissa occipitalis.)

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

The Genus Urocissa, (CABANIS).

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

This genus, of which two species (*occipitalis* and *flavirostris*) are well known to visitors to the London Zoo, is a beautiful one, all the species being notable for, the beautiful blues of their plumage, long graduated tails, and coral red or yellow bills. Their range is confined to the hilly regions of India and China.

The principal characteristics of *Urocissa* (Syn. *Calocitta*, Bon.—*Psilorhinus*, Rüpp.) are: The bill is stout and straight, with the culmen slightly curved, and hooked, slightly toothed at the tip, it is longer (1¼ to 1½ inches) and more slender than in the true Jays; rictal bristles few and weak; nostrils open, but overhung by a few lengthened bristles; wings rounded; tail very long and graduated, with the two central feathers much the longer; the claws strong and the lateral toes unequal.

The following species comprise the genus: *occipitalis*, Blyth.—*magnirostris*, Blyth.—*erythrorhyncha*, Gm.— *flavirostris*, Blyth.—*cærulea*, Gould.

All the species are large and beautiful birds, ranging from 20 to 24 inches, from tip of beak to tip of tail. The largest of them being the Red-billed (*occipitalis*), a coloured plate of which, from Mr. Goodchild's brush, forms our frontispiece; it is also one of the best known. Mr. Goodchild made his studies of the bird from life, from a specimen presented to the London Zoo by our member, Mr. E. J. Brook. Some few years ago several of these Blue-Pies occupied one of the roomy flights on the banks of the canal; there, their beautiful plumage, graceful wing evolutions, and long tails, were a sight long to be remembered, especially when viewed from the top of the bank—many times I watched them, almost spell-bound for quite lengthy periods, and one could always see something fresh to admire, either in plumage or deportment. This species is also well known as the Occipital Blue—Pie in this country.

I greatly desired that one of our members residing in India should have written this article, but have been unable to accomplish this, but I have got the following notes from the Rev. J. M. Paterson, who did not consider himself sufficiently acquainted with the species to undertake the article, but he writes as follows:

> "I am afraid I know very little about *Urocissa occipitalis*, though I "have seen him often enough in the Himalayan forests, as every traveller "does, for as he rises from the ground and flies high up into the trees he "is a most conspicuous object. He is a ground feeder, and spends a good "deal of his time on *terra firma*, and as he rises from his feeding ground— "the top of some tall tree being his objective—he always attracts the eye "with his brilliant colouring. His whole upper back, wings and tail appear "to be bright blue, but when he settles high up he only shows a bright "coral-red beak, set off with black head and neck, and silky white waist- "coat and undertail feathers distinctly barred."
>
> "His nest is generally in the topmost fork of a high tree, strongly "and compactly built of twigs. The bird is a bold one and fearlessly app- "roaches villages and the habitations of mankind, though he is a true forest "bird in his habits. The natives frequently keep it as a cage pet and it "becomes very tame."

I do not think I need occupy space with generalities and will merely state, that all the species, would thrive and do well in quite a moderate sized aviary, with other birds of similar strength, and character, thus kept they soon become attached to their owners. As regards diet, this should be varied, for they are almost omnivorous. Some good insectile mixture should form the staple diet, with a little minced meat two or three times a week; fruit, boiled potato, boiled rice, insects of all kinds, also chopped lettuce or other green-food ; any kinds of insect life garden or hedgerow supplies, also any small mice available; scraps of bread, cake, etc., left from the table can all help to swell the bulk of the soft food dish.

The sexes of *Urocissa* are similar in plumage, but the the bill of the male is a little longer and more slender than that of his mate.

Nothing further need be added, and it only remains to describe the species, I am describing the whole, even though this may appear superfluous with Mr. Goodchild's beautiful plate before us.

INDIAN RED-BILLED BLUE-PIE (*Urocissa occipitalis*).

Description: Above, pale brownish-purple-blue, wings brighter and washed with azure-blue; quills, inner webs blackish-brown, outer webs azure-blue, secondaries tipped with white, outer margins of primaries pale ashy-grey, and a spot of white at the tips ; upper tail-coverts rich azure-blue with black tips ; tail feathers azure-blue, the two central ones broadly tipped with white ; the outer feathers also with broad white tips with a broad band of black above the white tips ; head, sides of throat and fore neck, deep velvety black, the feathers of the fore neck with a blue sheen at the tips ; feathers of the crown tipped with white, on the nape and hind neck is a large occipital patch of white ; remainder of under surface pure white, washed with light bluish-grey on the flanks ; bill rich coral-red ; legs and feet deep orange-yellow ; iris rich red. Total length 24 inches of which the tail measures 16. *Range:* The Himalayas.

GREAT-BILLED BLUE-PIE (*Urocissa magnirostris*).

Description: Differs from *occipitalis* in its stouter and stronger beak, smaller size, darker colouring, smaller occipital patch, and the white primary tips very indistinct or absent. Total length 20 inches, of which the tail measures 14. *Range:* Burmah and Siam.

CHINESE RED-BILLED BLUE-PIE (*Urocissa erythrorhyncha*).

Description: Upper surface brownish-lavender, lightly washed with purple-blue ; wings dull, deep blue ; quills brighter blue, with the inner webs dark brown and the primaries with a white tip on outer webs, secondaries with a band of white across the tips, upper tail coverts brownish-lavender passing into pale grey with black tips : tail rich azure-blue with broad white tips, all, save the two long central feathers, having a broad band of black above the white tips ; head, sides of face and throat deep black, the feathers of the fore crown tipped with lavender-grey and the hind crown and nape having a large occipital patch of lavender-grey ; remainder of under surface pale grey, lightly tinged with bluish, flanks darker grey, under tail coverts white ; bill, legs and feet coral-red ; iris ruddy-brown. Total length 21 inches of which the tail measures 16. *Range:* Confined to China.

YELLOW-BILLED BLUE-PIE (*Urocissa flavirostris*).

Description: Above lavender-blue, primaries with pale grey margins to the outer webs and faintly tipped with white, secondaries tipped with white ; upper tail coverts azure-blue with black tips and barred with pale blue ; tail deep azure-blue, broadly tipped with white, all, save the two long central feathers having a broad band of black above the white tip ; head, neck and mantle deep velvety black, with a occipital patch of pale bluish-white ; remainder of under surface ashy-grey, whitish on the centre of abdomen and under tail-coverts ; bill, yellow; legs and feet bright orange-yellow ; iris ruddy brown. Total length 20 inches of which the tail measures 16. *Range*: The Himalayas.

FORMOSAN BLUE-PIE (*Urocissa cærulea*).

Description: General body colour rich azure-blue, the quills with black inner webs and white tips, secondaries with white terminal bars; upper tail-coverts azure-blue, passing into blue-grey near the black tips; tail rich blue broadly tipped with white, all, save the two long central feathers, having a broad black band above the white tips; bill bright red with paler tip; legs and feet red; iris ruddy-brown. Total length 22 inches, of which the tail measures 15½, *Range*: Confined to Formosa,

A most fascinating genus, and for those having several enclosures, one of them could be put to no better use than housing some of the rarer Pies, Jays, and Crows.

Birds of Gambia.

BY E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

Continued from page 270.

RALLIDÆ.

Limnocorax niger. BLACK RAIL.

Range. Tropical Africa, Madeira. (*H.L.*)

A small black Moorhen, about half the size of ours at home. which is frequently seen in pairs on the mud along the river or on the swamps. Its plumage is entirely black with red legs, green bill and red irides.

Sarothura pulchra. RUFOUS-HEADED RAIL.

Range. Senegambia to Congo, Equatorial Africa. (*H.L.*)

A brown-black bird with rufous head and neck.

Crex egregia. AFRICAN CRAKE.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

Olive-brown above, the feathers with dark centres; below barred with black and white.

Gallinula angulata. LESSER MOORHEN.

Range. Tropical Africa. (*H.L.*)

A small edition of the English Moorhen.

These three Rails are known to occur in the Gambia and may be common, but being great adepts at concealment, like all Rails, and frequenting reed-grown swamps and other similar haunts, one need not wonder that they are not often seen, and as far as I know I have only seen an occasional example of the third species, the Moorhen.

Porphyrio alleni. ALLEN'S PURPLE GALLINULE.

Range. Tropical Africa, Madagascar, South Europe occasionally, Canaries. (*H.L.*)

I once brought home one of these Blue Gallinules alive, but have never seen another here and do not think that my bird was actually captured in the Gambia, but the range includes this Colony.

Podica senegalensis. SENEGAL FINFOOT.

Range. Tropical Africa, Senegambia to Congo. (*H.L.*)

One occasionally sees on the river and larger pools of the swamps a brown and white bird, which swims like a Darter, deep in the water with only the head and neck above the surface. When disturbed it either dives or flaps off along the surface with scuffling flight which it aids by helping itself along with its feet. These birds I take to be Finfoots, large ralline birds, brown above and white or whitish below, with long necks and coot-like feet.

PHASIANIDÆ.

The GAME-BIRDS are, I suppose, to most people the most interesting of all our birds and certainly attract the most attention. Our typical Game-bird is the "Bush-fowl," *Francolinus bicalcaratus*, a really sporting bird which is common throughout the Protectorate. The list also includes other species of Francolin, Guineafowl, Sand-Grouse, Quails and Bustards, the two last however being local in their distribution or only visitors to this part of Africa.

In the Gambia, and I believe in all other parts of British West Africa, a close season from July to January 1st for game birds and beasts has been imposed during recent years.

Coturnix coturnix. QUAIL.

Range. Europe, Asia, and Africa.

C. capensis. AFRICAN QUAIL.

Range. The greater part of Africa.

These two species are very closely allied and I am almost sure that both occur in the Gambia. In size they resemble one another, but are distinguished by differences in the markings (in the males) of the head and neck. In *C. coturnix* the sides of the face, chin, and throat, are white or whitish, in *capensis*, rufous or rufous-buff. In a minority of the Quails I have seen here these parts have been white (=*coturnix*), but in most they have been decidedly rufous or at any rate distinctly more rufous than white, so that I take it that the African form is the more common here, though many of ours suggest strongly the probability of cross-breeding occurring between the two species. The differences between these Quails was well shown in a coloured plate in Volume V. (N.S.) of the *Avicultural Magazine*, showing the differences between six species of Quail, and accompanied by an article by Mr. Seth Smith on the *genus*, in which, if I remember aright, he pointed out the frequency with which forms apparently intermediate between the two species were met with. In full breeding plumage the males, too, have the centre of the chin and throat black black and the white eyebrow much more marked than at other seasons; in *coturnix* also the rufous of the cheeks becomes deeper and brighter at this time of year. I am practically certain that Quail do not breed with us, and therefore should not expect to see their full dress here, but I have once (and once only in ten years) seen one with a black chin-mark, and this was a bird shot in December, 1906, which I believe to have been an old male of the European species, which had probably retained its previous season's breeding plumage. It had a very distinct white eyebrow and down the middle of the chin and throat ran a black line, the rest of the chin and throat being white, with a narrow red-brown streak across the cheeks from the gape backwards, and a crescentic similarly coloured half-collar across the front of the lower neck, the points of which joined the loral streak below the eyes.

For further particulars of this and other Game-birds I may refer those interested to Ogilvie Grant's Handbook, of the Game-birds, an inexpensive but most useful work in two volumes published in Allen's Naturalist's Library some time in the nineties. For my indebtedness also to this authority on the subject I take this opportunity of expressing my best thanks.

To the Gambia, Quails are only winter visitors, but are not uncommon here in the winter, from the middle of November to February. They are usually found singly in the dry grass of the edges of the swamps or in the clumps left among the corn and ground-nut fields. They generally rise almost at one's feet and skim off with rapid curving flight, calling sharply, "twit-twit-twit," as they go, along the top of the grass, to dive again at the earliest opportunity into cover, from which it is generally impossible to raise them a second time, for when once flushed and missed, they either lie close or creep out of the way among the thick grass stems. Although only temporary visitors with us they are well known to the natives under the names of Jatto-berrando (=lion-scarer) among the Mandingoes and Tiprip or Pikrik among the Joloffs, the latter names being no doubt imitations of the bird's note.

Of the FRANCOLINS, the four species which follow are known from the Gambia. Three, I know well, one, the ubiquitous "Wallo," the other two less common and more local. The fourth species, *F. lathami*. is, I believe, only known from two or three skins in the British Museum, which came from the Kunchow Creek, a waterway which divides the two Provinces of the Upper River and McCarthy Island.

Francolinus bicalcaratus. DOUBLE-SPURRED FRANCOLIN.

Range. West Africa, Niger to Mogador.

This is the Gambian Game-bird par excellence and is well known to everybody as the "Bush-fowl." They are common nearly all over the Protectorate, though naturally more numerous in some places than others, and as game-birds give plenty of sport, rising well, especially at the beginning of the season, and flying very much like a Partridge, but generally getting up at rather a longer range and thus counterbalancing their larger size. Later on in the season however, when nearly all the grass is burnt, they are less sporting and more difficult to get, as then they run off in front of one over the bare ground, keeping some 70 or 80 yards ahead, and absolutely refuse to rise unless cornered. In addition to their sporting attractions they also help largely to fill the pot and in most places provide the staple meat dish of the Protectorate official's daily menu. An old bird, however, is tasteless and tough, and one of any age shot just outside a native village may be distinctly nasty as birds which take to such haunts feed a good deal on the refuse they find in such places, but a Bushfowl, especially a young one, straight out of the rice-fields or ground-nut farms is sweet-fleshed and tender,—altogether excellent eating, while a cheeper literally melts in the mouth

Native names are "Wallo," in Mandingo and "Ntchoker" in Joloff. Both names are in common use and indeed the birds are nearly as well known here and as frequently called by their Mandingo name, as by that commonly given them in English, "Bush-fowl," and one notices how quickly those who shoot pick up enough of the native language to aid their pursuit, and become *au fait* with such phrases as "Wallo assiáta le jang," or "Wallo be minto" ("Are there plenty of Bushfowl here? Where are the bushfowl?"), long before they know now to say "How do you do" properly or even to ask their way home in the language.

Bush-fowl have two typical haunts in this country—(1) the comparatively high-lying corn and ground-nut fields and the thin bush round them; and (2) the low-lying rice-fields in the swamps and the long grass which borders them. During the rains and earlier months of the dry season the more elevated and therefore drier situations are the favourite haunts, though when the rice ripens (about November) numbers flock there in the early mornings and evenings to feed, returning to the farms during the day, but as the dry season advances, they migrate gradually towards the swamps and water and by the later months the majority have left the higher ground and are to be found on the swamps, by now mostly dry, and especially during the very hottest months among the clumps of small bushes and trees which generally border these swamps. They are usually met with in coveys of from 6 to 10, or at the beginning and end of the dry season in pairs. Their feeding hours are mostly the mornings and evenings, for during the heat of the day they rest in cover, taking advantage too during the hot months of the shade of trees and bushes. When the crops are ripe, they feed mainly on ground-nuts, corn, rice and other products of man's labours, but also on other seeds, various berries and insects, which constitute their diet for the remaining nine months of the year. Some individuals, however, prefer the easier life and more easily obtained food supply to be found in the immediate neighbourhood of the native villages, and here become scavangers and live chiefly on the refuse and filth, they find in such places.

Bushfowl breed from about August to November, laying white or pale buff unmarked eggs in shallow depressions on the ground among the long grass, usually in the open, but sometimes under the shelter of some straggling bush or tree. During the rains they roost in trees, but for the rest of the year most of them pass the night on the ground. They often too, perch on trees when disturbed and especially is this the case when flushed after the sun has set and darkness is coming on. The cry of the male is loud and shrill, something between a crow and a cackle, while the sexes call to each other and their young with a sweet low whistle

Description. The adult male is brown above mottled with black (the typical game-bird pattern of colouration), below buff, brightest on the breast and becoming paler below and spotted sparsely with black towards the sides. The head is whitish with a rich dark brown crown and lateral streaks, the chin is white, the wings and tail grown with black markings. The female is distinguished from the male by her decidedly smaller size and by the absence of spurs, a pair of which, one longer than the other but both usually sharp, are borne on each of her mate's legs. The iris is brown, the beak horn-coloured and the legs dirty yellow. Length about 12 inches (♂), 10 to 10¾ (♀).

To be continued.

Visits to Members' Aviaries and Birdrooms.

Continued from page 268.

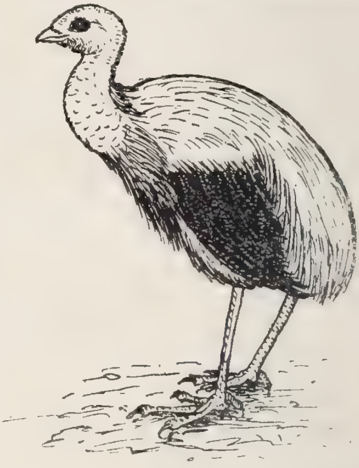
BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

REV. J. PATERSON'S AVIARIES AND BIRDS: I was motored here by Mrs. Hartley, but as I have since spent a week-end (last one in September), with Mr. Paterson, I have had more than a hurried glance at his aviary accommodation. I shall, however, write from the notes of my earlier visit, which will be the richer for the experience gained during the later visit, during which, however, only mental notes were made.

GROUP OF THREE SMALL AVIARIES: We first came upon a group of three small aviaries, upon which much care and trouble had been expended. These consisted of a range of shelters and flights, with intercommunication between each and a very perfect system of roof-ventilation. The floors of the shelters were of concrete, and about nine inches above the ground level of the flights, the latter being covered with gravel. The partitions between the respective enclosures were of wire netting. The flights contained no plants or grass their only furnishings being a few twigy branches and perches, all food vessels, etc., being placed in the shelters. These aviaries contained a mixed series of Budgerigars, Black-cheeked Lovebirds, Californian Quail, Canaries, various British Finches, and Buntings, Zebra and other Australian Finches and a Black-cheeked Cardinal. Also a Bunting which had not yet donned adult plumage and which I am convinced is a *Cyanospiza*, but certainly neither *cyanea* nor *ciris*., it very probably is *lazulina* Considering the area of these enclosures, mixed occupants, etc., results, while not great, have been average. At the time of our visit, there were young in the nest of Zebra Finches, Budgerigars, Black-cheeks, and Canaries; while in one of these enclosures was reared the Chaffinch x Greenfinch Hybrid (*vide* "B.N.," page 215, current vol.), which, though living to fend for itself for some time did not live long enough to moult into udult plumage.

Stable Aviary: We next passed into a well-lighted coach-house, which was used as a workshop, and here were many evidences of Mr. Paterson's practical skill and interest in his feathered colony; leading from this, was a stable, which had been converted into an aviary, with a large cage covering the window on the outside. Here were housed several pairs of Budgerigars, with which Mr. Paterson is testing his theory, re producing Blue Budgerigars (*vide* "B.N.," page 216 of current volume), some of the progeny of which were showing evidences of white and blue in their plumage. Some were loose, others were in large cages, hanging on the walls. A fine and tame Shamah was flying loose here, looking the picture of health and condition.

The Trumpeter's Enclosure: This is merely a disused chicken run, containing several deciduous bushes and evergreens. This bird is a most interesting pet and follows its owner and visitors about the garden like a dog. As the flight of its enclosure has no roof, one wing is always kept cut, but it has no fear of cats, and soon puts such to flight if they attempt an attack; dogs it does not like and seeks safety in flight from such, but if cornered, will turn and defend itself, as it has done successfully on more than one occasion. In size it is a little larger than a Guinea Fowl, but has longer legs (a photo of the White-winged Trumpeter, Bird appeared in "B.N." Vol. I., N.S. opposite p. 162). The Trumpeter Birds, of which six species are known, make most interesting pets and all the individuals I have come across have been very tame, not even resenting being picked up, and more than one was accustomed to follow its owner into the house. They inhabited tropical South America, yet are quite hardy and only need a shelter to which they can retire at will. Mr. Paterson's bird is evidently *Psophia crepitans* and is also known as the Agami. Its plumage is velvety black with a brownish patch crossing the wings, and back ; the lower fore neck is adorned with a golden-green or violet-purple sheen, according to light refraction. I made a rough pencil sketch, on the spot of the bird, and have endeavoured to indicate one of its principal poses, as well as the character of its plumage, so far as this is possible in a mere sketch, in the accompanying figure.



From Life

The Trumpeter.

The natural food consists of fruit, corn, and insects. They are to be found in large flocks, in the moist forests of British Guiana and the Amazon Valley. The bird runs with exceeding swiftness, frequently with partially expanded wings, the latter feature I observed on several occasions during my stay at Hollington Vicarage.

The Wildferne's Aviaries: Again a series of three enclosures, the first of which fully maintains its name and character being a tangle of wild growth, but the other two, being occupied largely by Budgerigars, Lovebirds, and Cockateels, do not, the wild growth having all disappeared.

The first of these is a very pleasing arrangement, the creepers (rambler roses, hops, wild clematis, etc.) being planted both inside and outside the wire netting shell of flight, these hang down in long tendrils through the netting, almost obscuring the shrubs, and bushes beneath, and viewed both from within or without it was wildly picturesque. This aviary contained, among others, pairs of: Blackcaps, Indigo Buntings, Pintail Nonpareils (2 pairs), Green Singingfinches, Bib Finches, Bronze Mannikins, Long-tailed Grassfinches, Silverbills; also Grey x Green Singingfinch Hybrids. All the birds were in splendid plumage and looked quite charming amid the natural environment, but breeding results have been small—some species were nesting.

The second of these enclosures contained Cockateels, Green Cardinals, Goldfinches, Cutthroats, Zebra Finches, Java Sparrows, etc.

The third enclosure contained Budgerigars (15) Cockateels (6), 2 pairs White Java Sparrows, Madagascar Lovebirds, Black-cheeked Lovebirds, a few British Finches, Cardinals, etc. Quite a number of young Budgerigars were in the logs and Cockateels and others were incubating.

STUDY AVIARIES: So named because the shelter of one of them is a small conservatory enclosing the study window. Here are brought the more delicate species from the other aviaries for winter housing, as this house has a good hot-water service, and a comfortable temperature is easily maintained. A fairly roomy flight, planted with various evergreens and grass, is attached to the conservatory. Here were housed at the time of my visit: Diamond Sparrows, Gouldian Jacarini, and Zebra Finches, Avadavats, Hooded Siskins, Firefinches, and Orange-breasted Waxbills, several of which were nesting, in various receptacles, hung amid the luxuriant tangle of clematis in the conservatory. There were also several cages, one of which contained a fine Nightingale, which was not in song during either of my visits.

There were several other small aviaries, which are used as summer quarters for single or several pairs of birds.

I have purposely refrained from recording nesting details, Mr. Paterson has already contributed some notes for this season, and I have left the matter open for him to supply later results.

MRS. TRAVIS'S AVIARIES AND BIRDS: On September 5th I went to Stourbridge, and enjoyed the hospitality of

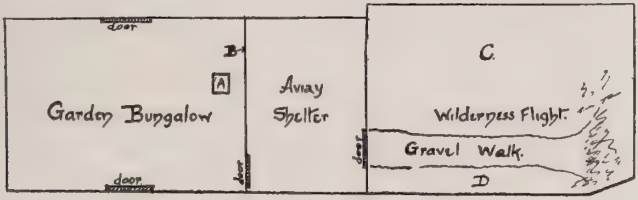
Mr. and Mrs. Travis for that and the following day. Amid the setting of a large and beautiful garden the aviaries are placed. The two Finch aviaries, one under the verandah, with the windows of one of the rooms opening into it, and the other at the bottom of the tennis lawn, while the Parrakeet aviary is situated at the top of the kitchen garden.

THE VERANDAH AVIARY contains a series of Finches, Waxbills, Doves, and Canaries, and is picturesquely furnished with growing plants, creepers, rockwork, and fish pond, as well as a goodly array of twiggy branches, etc. There is a shelter shed at one end, which is not much used, and the other end is covered, being glazed for about four feet over the roof, front, and end, this being the exposed corner. The birds have done well, here, but among the Foreign Finches, breeding results have been small, but the Canaries have done fairly well. The cover and sheltered area of the flight is admirably arranged and the aviary as a whole (S. aspect) should supply its occupants with snug winter accommodation; as a narrow portion of the whole length of flight is covered in, and the back of aviary, consisting of the frontages of the kitchen and one of the sitting-rooms—this supplies snug roosting accommodation for all weathers.

THE LAWN AVIARY: Also contains a selection of Finches, Waxbills, Buntings, Quail, etc., but the flight of this aviary is constructed entirely of bent ironwork, and wire netting, though the exposed end is blocked in (see Ground Plan below). The shelter, which is heated by hot-water pipes, forms part of the garden bungalow, the dividing partition consisting of wood and glass, so that even in winter the birds can be comfortably observed therefrom, whatever the weather conditions may be. The flight is a wilderness one, and well filled up with creepers, shrubs, grass and weedy growths. It should yet yield good results. There was excitement during my visit, as the first Cordon Bleu to be bred in the aviary was discovered, Mrs. Travis not being aware that the parents had gone to nest. Zebra and Ruficauda Finches, Chinese Painted Quail have also reared young in the aviary. The following list of birds comprise the occupants of these two aviaries:

3 Gouldian Finches.
2 Guttural Finches.
1 Pileated Finches.
11 Zebra Finches.
2 Green Singingfinches.
2 Grey Singingfinches.
5 Ruficauda Finches.
5 Diamond Finches.
2 Nutmeg Finches.
2 Nonetti Finches.
1 Carmine (Ruddy) Finch.
30 Canaries.
2 Goldfinches.
3 Silverbills.
2 Pintail Nonpareils.
1 Bengalese
2 Archbishop Tanagers.
3 Chinese Painted Quail.
1 Combasou.
4 Common Avadavats.
2 Green Avadavats.
3 Zebra Waxbills.
2 Orange-cheek Waxbills.
3 Grey Waxbills.
2 Indigo Buntings.
1 Black-faced Serin.
5 Cordon Bleus.
1 Passerine Dove.
8 Diamond Doves.
2 Pekin Robins.
2 Grey Java Sparrows.
2 White Java Sparrows.
1 Madagascar Weaver.
1 Orange Weaver.
2 Bronze-wing Mannikins.
2 Tri-color Mannikins.
4 Black-headed Mannikins.
4 Cutthroats.

The above were mostly in pairs, and all of them looking very fit and except for one or two in moult were all in splendid plumage.



GROUND PLAN.

A. Boiler for heating hot-water service.
B. Glazed partition dividing Aviary Shelter from Bungalow.
C.D. Jungles of bushes, creepers, plants, and weeds.
Bungalow is eighteen inches above ground level, and a flight of three steps leads from Aviary Shelter to Flight.
Plan is drawn to a scale of one-eighth inch to the foot, but is reduced one half in reproduction.

The Parrakeet Aviary, consisting of flight and shelter, is well arranged against a high wall, which shelters it on the north and the provision of moveable sashes supply ample protection against the vagaries of an English winter. Here are housed: one pair each Rosella Parrakeets, Cockateels and Black-cheeked Lovebirds, and seven Budgerigars. The demeanour of the Rosellas raise hopes of nesting operations next season.

MR. HENSTOCK'S AVIARIES: In the heart of the town of Ashbourne, with all the limitations of business premises, there is but little scope for aviaries, yet with all its limitations, our member and publisher has managed to secure an oasis of floral beauty and two small aviaries, one given up to Budgerigars and Lovebirds and the other to Australian and African Finches, Waxbills and Weavers. Opposite is a photo-reproduction of the Finch Aviary, which is quite picturesque; it is also well arranged, though the birds will not permit plants to flourish inside, these and also creepers are planted in the border outside, which grow through the netting, supplying the birds with fresh greenfood and some little insect-life. The winters at Ashbourne are very severe, and birds need extra protection during winter weather. The flight is span-roofed, and the back and end of same, and the back portion of the roof are all boards and felt, and quite weather proof. During the winter the front half of the span of roof is covered with a glazed light, and a cover fastened over the front each evening during severe weather.

In spite of the limitations, still further restricted by the desire to have as varied a series as possible, breeding results have not been nil. Zebra and Ruficauda Finches, Spice Finch x Bengalese Hybrids, and quite a number of Budgerigars have been reared during the respective seasons; while many species have thriven and delighted their owner with their lovely plumage, vivacious demeanour and deportment. Though the weather was none of the kindest during my stay in Ashbourne, yet with Mr. Henstock, I was able during a short four days (portions of which were given up to business matters) to explore some of the beauties of Derbyshire, including lovely Dovedale. I was also privileged to to pay a visit to Clifton (near Ashbourne) Vicarage, and to inspect the unique collection of Birds' eggs, gathered together by the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, at the expenditure of considerable time and much self-denial in many ways, of cash and no little personal risk. The collection is one of which any Oologist may well be proud, and contains many clutches which are rare indeed, and is so complete

and comprehensive as to data, etc., that it was an education in bird lore, merely to give the brief look through, which was all the time at my disposal permitted, while the recounting of collecting episodes, and facts gleaned during his collecting expeditions, made the afternoon a most fascinating one, and one which will not be soon forgotten.

Altogether my visit to Ashbourne was one of the most pleasant and interesting I have made this year.

Breeding of the Red-sided Eclectus Parrot.

(*Eclectus pectoralis*).

BY MISS M. DRUMMOND.

This species does not appear to have been previously bred in Great Britain, though young have been hatched out, but not reared, on more than one occasion. As after several failures, success has been at last attained in my aviaries this season, I am, at the request of our Editor, sending an account of their nesting with me.

The two white eggs were hatched on or perhaps before July 21st. The male fed the hen most attentively during the 30 days of incubation, both in the log and when she came out also until the chicks were about ten weeks old; the hen transferring the food to the young ones. During the first month she remained almost entirely in the log, the male coming to the opening to feed her, then she further helped in the task of rearing of the young by feeding herself, as well as being fed by the male, and very hard work it must have been to satisfy those two youngsters' voracious appetites, as their calls for food were incessant, imperative and noisy, like several young puppies more than two small birds. The male took no notice of the chicks until October 8th, when he was seen feeding them; by that time they were to be seen sitting, for short intervals, on the small platform, fixed on to the front of log. The hen continued feeding also, but by the 16th, she had given up doing so, because she was much annoyed with the male for neglecting her for the young ones; this led to much disputing and temper on both sides. The hen tried to get between him and the young birds to stop his feeding them, and when on the 20th

I discovered her pulling the feathers out of the young ones, I thought it time to interfere, so caught and caged her. She evidently wished to nest again, for she had subjected the log to a most vigorous "spring cleaning." She had kept the nest most beautifully clean, and fresh for the last month, pushing the young ones into a corner, and then scraping and scratching—like a dog at a rabbit hole—all dust and dirt flying out of the log, behind her.

A more devoted mother could have been. When she did leave the log for a short scramble in the flight, she would stop every now and then with her head on one side, to listen, and if any sound came from the log that alarmed her or any person came into the shelter—back she would go as fast as she could, and then having seen and arranged matters to her satisfaction would again go out. During the first month after hatching, and the last few weeks, when she seemed afraid that they might fall from the log, she scarcely left them at all, and one saw her pushing them back into the log if they showed signs of being too adventurous. At night she was always in the log (till the last night before they came out altogether) the male perching on a branch close by, then he moved some little distance off back to the long perch, where he usually roosted, and the next morning we found the two young birds sitting beside him—evidently this must have been arranged. The hen never joined them, but remained at the log, getting it ready for a new nest.

They have been well fed during the whole period, with boiled Indian corn (given damp), about a quarter pound each day, and usual seed mixture. Of this, at first they did not eat much, evidently feeding on soft food, an Osborne biscuit boiled in milk with sugar, and a little Mellin's food, either a boiled potato, or some baked rice pudding, apple, nuts of sorts (at first not many taken, but latterly a good many have been eaten), lettuce, and chickweed; they prefer the latter and eat a good deal of it. Sometimes I was filled with alarm when the male became sulky, either from not being allowed to go out on some wet day, or from not having hit it off with his wife, and refused to touch any food; the more the children screamed and yelled the more sulky he would get, and we had sad visions of a starved family. Then there was nothing for it but to feed him by hand, an exhausting and most lengthy performance.

I am told that these Parrots are not considered as clever and interesting as others, but I have found mine the most delightful and clever of birds in every way, and most attached to those they like—very tame and very gentle—though they do not much care for strangers. My male bird says a few words. The nesting log is nine feet from the ground, of heavy oak, twenty inches in diameter bored right through, about one and a half feet long, the front half covered with a piece of board fastened with wooden pegs, and a board (platform) about eight inches square in front. At the far end is a cup-shaped depression.

The young birds are male and female and similar in plumage to their parents. At first they were covered with down (interior of log very dark), but on August 31st a tinge of red on the head of one and green on the other was visible and then a gradual bursting of the plumage through the grey down left the young birds almost as brilliant as their parents.

The Green Fruitsuckers.

(*Chloropsis and Iora*.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S, ETC.

(*Continued from page* 212).

As there are still 11 species of *Chloropsis* to describe, the notes of each species can be but brief, but as they are all very similar in their general habits and characteristics, and these have been fully covered in previous instalments, mere descriptions and range should fully meet the need of the remaining species.

HAINAN GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*Chloropsis lazulina*): As regards this beautiful species, I can only make extracts from the British Museum Catalogue.

Adult Male: "General colour above bright grass-green, washed with golden green on the hind neck and sides of latter; crown washed with dull bluish green or greenish verditer, brighter over the eyes forming a superciliary line, the same colour occupying the upper margin of eyelid; lores, remainder of eyelids and sides of face blue-black, brighter below the eye; cheeks bright cobalt, forming a broad moustachial band; throat and foreneck deep blue ; sides of foreneck, breast and centre of body, thighs and under tail-coverts, rich orange-yellow ; sides of body and flanks emerald green ; least series of upper wing-coverts bright cobalt, forming a shoulder patch ; median and outer greater coverts, bastard wing and primary coverts deep blue ; primaries blackish, externally deep blue, the secondaries green on the outer webs ; tail feathers deep blue, more or less green towards the base of the inner web ; 'bill deep brownish-black ; legs and toes leaden grey ; iris deep brown' (R. Swinhoe). Total length 6·5 inches, culmen 0·9, wing 3·75, tail 3·1, tarsus 0·75."

Adult Female : "Differs from the male in having no orange on the under surface, and the blue-black throat is also absent. General colour green inclining to pale bluish-green on the head ; the under surface more emerald green on the centre of the body ; wing coverts washed with blue, as also the outer edges of the primaries ; chin and sides of face with a slight tinge of blue ; cheek-feathers tipped with cobalt forming a moustache. Total length 6·5 inches, culmen 0·8, wing 3·35, tail 2·8, tarsus 0·7." (B.M.C. Vol. VI.).

Range. Island of Hainan.

BLUE-SHOULDERED GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. viridis*):

Adult Male : "General colour above grass-green ; wing coverts like the back ; quills blackish, externally grass-green, inner secondaries like the latter ; a conspicuous shoulder-spot of bright cobalt, formed by the least wing-coverts ; tail dark green, dusky blackish along the inner webs, lores and feathers at base of nostrils, eyelid (except the hinder part), sides of face, and throat black, a shade of yellowish green extending from the base of the forehead over the eye across the hinder ear-coverts and down the sides of the neck, skirting the black throat and pervading the foreneck ; on the cheeks a violet moustachial streak ; remainder of under surface bright green. Total length 8·5 inches, culmen 0·9, wing 4·05, tail 3·0, tarsus 0·8."

Adult Female : "Green, without the black throat of the male ; round the eye a ring of yellow feathers ; throat yellow ; a slight indication of a light blue moustache. Total length 8·5 inches, culmen 0.85, wing 3·65, tail 3, tarsus 0·8." (B.M.C. Vol. VI.).

Range. Island of Java,

MALACHITE-SHOULDERED GREEN FRUITSUCKER. (*C. zosterops Vigors*). I am describing the male from a skin, it is an exquisite species, but "comparisons are odious" between species of this gorgeous genus. The descriptions of the female and range I am quoting from B.M.C.

Adult Male : General colour above and below grass-green, brighter below, least wing-coverts shining emerald-green ; tail feathers with light green margins ; lores, eye region, sides of face and throat black, narrowly bordered with light green which gradually merges into the grass-green body colour (the black area does not extend beyond the back of the eye) ; moustachlal streaks glowing ultramine-blue. Total length 8 inches, tail 3.

Adult Female : "Wants the black throat of the male. General colour green, including the wings and tail ; least wing coverts emerald green ; round the eye a yellow ring and a yellow spot at the gape; throat yellow, forepart of cheeks marked with a small blue moustachial streak. Total length 7·5 inches, culmen 0·85, wing 3·5, tarsus 0·75." (B.M.C. Vol. VI.).

Range, "Islands of Borneo and Sumatra. It ranges through the Malay peninsula to the forests of Central and Southern Tenasserim." (B.M.C.)

ORANGE-FRONTED GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. media*).

Adult Male: "General colour grass-green, washed with emerald green on the under surface of body; wings dark grass-green, least wing-coverts cobalt-blue, quills green, the primaries with the inner webs blackish and tinged with yellow on outer webs; forehead and fore crown yellow; lores, sides of face, throat, and hind neck black; moustachial streaks ultramarine-blue. Total length 7½ inches, tail 3."

Adult Female: "Very similar to the male, but without any yellow on the forehead; round the eye a ring of yellowish green; no black on the sides of the face and throat; a faintly indicated moustachial line of greenish cobalt. Total length 7 inches. culmen 0·8, wing 3·5, tail 3·1, tarsus 0·75."

Range. "Sumatra."

JAVAN GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. nigricollis, Nich*).

Adult Male: General colour grass-green above, lighter and more yellowish on the head and neck, brighter green below; lesser wing-coverts cobalt-blue; bastard wing and primary coverts greenish-blue; quills blackish-brown, primaries with the outer webs blue, outer webs of secondaries green; tail dark green, outer feathers blue with green margins; lores region below the eyes and throat black; a gorget of bright yellow on the fore neck; streak above the eye and border to black throat and face mask yellow. Total length 7¾ inches, wing 3.

Adult Female: General colour green, wings and tail as in the male, short blue moustachial streaks, fore neck and chest yellow. Total length 6¾ inches, tail 2¾.

Range, "Apparently peculiar to the Island of Java."

BURMESE GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. chlorocephala*).

Adult Male: General colour grass-green above, more or less washed with yellow on the head and neck. emerald-green below washed with yellow on the breast; lesser wing-coverts cobalt-blue: bastard wing- and primary-coverts dark blue with lighter margins; quills blackish, the primaries with blue and the secondaries with green outer webs; tail greenish-blue with the central feathers grass-green; narrow frontal band, eyebrow and eyelid yellow; lores lower eye region, cheeks and throat black; bordered with yellow forming a small gorget on the foreneck; sides of crown and ear-coverts glistening emerald-green; moustachial streaks (small) ultramarine-blue. Total length 6¾ inches, tail 2¾.

Adult Female: General colour green, paler and washed with yellowish on the undersurface; forehead, lores, eye region and throat emerald-green, slightly tinged with blue above the eye and on the throat; small moustachial streaks pale cobalt-blue. Total length 6 inches ,tail 2½.

Range "The hill-country of the Indo-Chinese sub-region from Pegu and Tenasserim through Burmah (Tonghoo and Karen-nee) and Cacher to Cochin China." (B.M.C.)

GOLDEN-HEADED GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. icterocephala*).

Adult Male: General colour above and below bright green; wing-coverts, excepting the lesser which are glistening cobalt, rich blue with the outer margins grass-green; primary-coverts rich blue; primaries blackish-brown with the outer webs blue, secondaries richer blue with broad outer margins grass-green; tail feathers dark blue, with green margins to the central ones; forehead, crown, upper eye-region, ear-coverts, and hind part of cheeks, pale sulphur-yellow; nape orange-yellow, which more or less suffuses the green of the neck and mantle; lores, lower eye-region, forepart of cheeks and throat black; a spot of blue adorns the cheeks at base of bill. Total length 6¾ inches, tail 2¾.

Adult Female: "General colour bright green slightly washed with yellow on the neck; no black on the face or throat; wing-coverts deep blue, the greater series edged with green; least wing-coverts fine cobalt-blue, but the shoulder patch not so big as in the male; quills blackish, the primaries externally greenish-blue, inclining to silvery-grey near the tips of the outer webs, the secondaries bluish green on the outer webs, edged with green, innermost secondaries entirely green; tail feathers bluish with green edges; frontal feathers and lores decidedly yellower than the head, the eyebrow paler also; eyelid yellow; sides of face green washed with blue in the region of the eye; ear-coverts washed with golden yellow; at the base of the cheeks a small spot of greenish-blue; under surface of body light green inclining to yellowish in the centre of the breast and abdomen; the throat very faintly washed with bluish Total length 6 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 2·9, tail 2·3, tarsus 0·65." (B.M.C.)

Range. "Plentiful in the Malay Peninsula, ranging as far as Province Wellesley. It is also frequent in Sumatran collections." (B.M.C.)

EVERETT'S GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. viridinucha*). A good sketchy description of the male would be: back and tail dark green, wings bluish-green, with the wing-coverts, except the greater cobalt-blue and the quills externally, ultramarine-blue; throat and lower face black; head green, washed with golden green on the front of crown, eye region, ear-coverts and borders of face and throat mask.

Adult Male. Above dark grass-green, all the lesser coverts glistening cobalt-blue; greater coverts bluish-green, with green margins; bastard-wing and primary coverts and outer webs of quills rich ultramarine-blue, secondaries bluish-green with green margins; tail feathers dark bluish green with the external webs of outer feathers deep blue; forehead and forecrown yellow, merging into the green on the nape; hind neck lightly washed with brown; lores, cheeks and throat black, bordered with yellow; moustachial streaks very faint, scarcely discernible; upper eye region, forepart of ear coverts and hinder part of cheeks bright yellow; chest yellow; remainder of undersurface palish emerald-green; bill black; legs and feet greenish-slaty; iris dark brown. Total length 6½ inches, tail 2½.

Adult Female: Head, neck and under surface yellowish-green; wings, back and tail bluish grass-green; small moustachial streaks blue. Total length 6¼ inches, tail 2¼.

Range. Island of Borneo.

BLUE-WHISKERED GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. cyanopogon*).

Adult Male: General colour grass-green, washed with yellowish on the under surface; quills dusky, with the outer webs green, primaries with yellowish tips; tail feathers dark grass-green; lores, lower eye region, cheeks and throat black; moustachial streaks dark shining cobalt-blue; border to black throat and cheeks, and foreneck yellow, gradually merging into the green body plumage; bill black, Total length 6¼ inches, tail 2½.

Adult Female: Above bright green; below yellowish green; eye region yellowish; wings as in male but a little lighter; short moustachial streaks palish cobalt blue. Total length 6 inches, tail 2¼.

Range. "Borneo, Sumatra, and the Malayan Peninsula, whence it ranges into the extreme south of the Tenasserim province." (B.M.C.)

STEER'S GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. palamanensis*, Sharpe).

Adult Male. "General colour above bright grass-green, the head brighter and the forehead decidedly yellower; wing coverts green like the back, with bluish bases, the least series and the small plumes at the bend of the wing rich purple, forming a shoulder spot; bastard wing—and primary coverts blue; primaries black, the outer web blue, the secondaries more or less blue in the centre, shading externally into green; tail blue, with a slight wash of green, especially in the centre feathers; sides of the face bright golden yellow, the ear coverts green on their hinder margin; round the eye a ring of purple feathers; lores and a spot at the base of the lower mandible greenish blue; eyelids dull purple; cheeks lilac forming a moustachial streak; entire throat bright golden yellow; rest of under surface bright green; bill black; iris dark brown. Total length 7 inches, culmen 0.85, wings 3.5, tail 2.8, tarsus 0.8" (B.M.C.).

Adult Female. "Similar to the male, but having the moustachial streak blue. Total length 6.6 inches, wing 3.3, tail 2.6 tarsus 0.7." (B.M.C.).

Range. "Is only known at present from the island of Palawen, in the Phillipine Archipelago." (B.M.C.).

YELLOW-WINGED FRUITSUCKER (*C. flavipennis*).

Adult Female. "General colour above bright green, the wing coverts like the back; primary-coverts green, the outer ones with a faint edging of yellow; quills blackish brown, externally green, the primaries margined with yellow towards their tips, the inner secondaries entirely green, like the back; tail-feathers green; dusky on the inner webs, which are narrowly edged with yellow; lores yellowish, as well as the eyelid; sides of face light green, tinged with yellow on the cheeks; under surface of body light green, slightly paler on the centre of breast and abdomen; throat yellowish; thighs pale yellow; under wing-coverts and axillaries pale yellowish green; quills dusky below, light yellow along the inner webs; 'bill leaden; legs greenish leaden; iris hazel' (Alfred Everett). Total length 7.8 inches, culmen 0.8, wing 3.65, tail 3, tarsus 0.75. (Mus. R. G. Wardlow Ramsay)." (B.M.C.).

Adult male "(type of species). Similar to the female. Total length 7.5 inches, culmen 0.95, wing 3.65, tail 3, tarsus 0.75. (Mus. R. G. Wardlow Ramsay)."

Range. "The island of Zebu or Cebu, in the Phillipine Archipelago, is as yet the only recorded habitat for the Yellow-winged Green Bulbul." (B.M.C.).

BLUE-FRONTED GREEN FRUITSUCKER (*C. venusta*).

Adult male "(Sumatra type of species). General colour above bright grass green, a little duller on the crown; wing coverts like the back; a little brighter green on the edges, the least series greenish cobalt, forming a shoulder spot; the edge of the wing also tinged with the same greenish cobalt; primary coverts and quills dusky brown, externally grass-green, brighter on the margins of the primaries, which are ashy towards the tips of the outer webs, the outermost primaries bluish; upper tail-covets brighter green than the back, tail feathers blue, greenish near their bases; forehead purplish blue, the eyebrow and ear-coverts being a little lighter and more cobalt-blue; lores blue-black; feathers below the eye, cheeks, and sides of throat, as well as the chin bright purplish blue; remainder of the throat blackish; the chest bright orange, separated from the black throat by a shade of purplish ash-colour; sides of neck and sides of chest yellowish green; remainder of under surface light green, deeper green on the vent and under tail-coverts; under wing-coverts and axillaries white, tinged with green, more especially on the outer edge of the wing; quills dusky brown below; whitish along the edge of the inner web. Total length 5.5 inches, culmen 0.65, wing 2.75, tail 2.15, tarsus 0.65 (Mus. Lugd.)" (B.M.C.).

Adult female. "Similar to the male in most respects, but distinguished at once by the colour of the throat, which is blue, of the same shade as the forehead, eyebrow, sides of face and ear-coverts. The purplish-blue colour which ornaments the face of the male is absent in the hen bird; the breast also is a little more yellow than the rest of the underparts, but there is no orange as in the male. Total length 5.6 inches, culmen 0.7, wing 2.7, tail 2.2, tarsus 0.65 (*Mus Lugd.*)" (B.M.C.).

"The Blue-fronted Green Bulbul is at present only known from the typical sepcimens in the Leyden Museum. The species is one of the smallest and most beautiful of the genus, and it is apparently... confined to the island of Sumatra." (B.M.C., Vol. V.).

Of the fifteen species which comprise the genus *Chloropsis*, only three (*aurifrons, hardwickii* and *jerdoni*) are known to English aviculture,—all are of gorgeous colouration, beautiful form and full of character.

I regret that pressure upon my time and lack of material has prevented an original description in each case, but, except where printed between inverted commas, the descriptions are from skins, plates, or life.

I have exceeded space limit this month to enable the article to be completed in the present volume.

Species which have Reared Young in Captivity in Great Britain.

Continued from page 222.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S, ETC.

This instalment includes supplemental records for the present season. I hope to complete the series of species in December, leaving hybrids over till next volume.

FRINGILLIDÆ.
- Hooded Siskin (*Chrysomitris cucullata*).
- St. Helena Seed-Eater (*Serinus flaviventris*).

PLOCEIDÆ.
- Black-headed Mannikin (*Munia atricapilla*).
- Peal's Parrot Finch (*Erythrura pealei*).
- Napoleon Weaver (*Pyromelana afra*).
- Black-headed Weaver (*Hyphantornis melanocephalus*).

TURDIDÆ.
- Whinchat (*Pratincola rubetra*).
- Black Redstart (*Ruticilla titys*).

TANAGRIDÆ.
- Magpie Tanager (*Cissopsis leveriana*).

MOTACILLIDÆ.
- Rock Pipit (*Anthus obscurus*).

ALAUDIDÆ.
- Crested Lark (*Galerita cristata*).

COLIIDÆ.
- The Striated Coly (*Colius striatus*).

COLUMBIDÆ.
- Venezuelan Ground Dove (*Geotrygon venezuelan*).

PSITTACI.
- Red-sided Eclectus Parrot (*Eclectus pectoralis*).

STRIGIDÆ.

Owl, Barn (*Strix flammea*).
,, Burrowing (*Speotyto cunicularia*).
,, Eagle (*Bubo maximus*).
,, Little (*Athene noctua*).
,, Scops (*Scops giu*).
,, Snowy (*Nyctea scandiaca*).
,, Spotted Eagle- (*Bubo maculosus*).
,, Tawny (*Syrnium aluco*).

FALCONIDÆ.

Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*).
Jackal-Buzzard (*Buteo jackal*).

SCOPIDÆ.

Hammer-head (*Scopus umbretta*).

CICONIIDÆ.

Stork, White (*Ciconia alba*).

IBIDIDÆ.

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus.*)

GRUIDÆ.

Crane. Canadian (*Grus canadensis*).
,, Common (*G. communis*).
,, Demoiselle (*G. virgo*).
,, Mantchurian (*G. japonensis*).
,, Sarus (*Antigone antigone*).
,, White-necked (*Anthropoides leucachen*).

CARIAMIDÆ.

Cariama (*Cariama cristata*).

PHALAMEDEIDÆ.

Crested Screamer (*Chauna cristata*).

ANSERIDÆ.

Duck. Australian Wild (*Anas superciliosa*).
,, Aylesbury (*Anas boscas, var.*)
,, Black Indian (*Anas boscas, var.*)
,, Call or Decoy (*Anas boscas, var.*)
,, Corolina or Summer (*Æx cornuta*).
,, Crested Chilian (*Anas cristata*).
,, Dusky (*Anas obscura*).
,, East Indian (*Anas boscas, var.*)
,, Eider (*Somateria mollissima*).
,, Mandarin (*Æx galericulata*).
,, Marbled (*Marmaronetta angustirostris*).
,, Muscovy (*Carinia moschata*).
,, Patagonian (*Carinia moschata, var.*)
,, Pekin (*Anas boscas, var.*)
,, Rosy-billed (*Metopiana peposaca*).
,, Rouen (*Anas boscas, var.*)
,, Spot-billed (*Anas pœcilorhyncha*).
,, Tufted (*Fuligula cristata*),

,, White-eyed (*Nyroca africana*).
,, Yellow-billed (*Anas flavirostris* [*undulata*]).
Gadwall. (*Chaulelasmus streperus*).
Goose. Ashy-headed (*Chloëphaga poliocephala*) or Chestnut-breasted.
,, Bernicle (*Branta leucopsis*).
,, Blue-winged Snow (*Chen cærulescens*).
,, Canadian (*Branta canadensis*).
,, Chinese (*Anser cygnoides*).
,, Coreopsis (*Coreopsis novæ hollandiæ*).
,, Egyptian (*Chenalopex ægyptiacus*).
,, Hutchin's (*Branta hutchinsi*).
,, Orinoco (*Chenalopex jubatus*) or Maned.
,, Pink-footed (*Anser brachyrhynchus*).
,, Ruddy-headed (*Chloëphaga rubidiceps*).
,, Sandwich Island (*Nesochen sandviciensis*).
,, Upland (*Chloëphaga magellanica*).
,, White-fronted (*Anser albifrons*) or Laughing.
Mallard. (*Anas boscas*).
Pintail. Bahama (*Dafila bahamensis*).
,, Brown-bellied Chilian (*Anas cristata*).
,, Common (*Dafila acuta*).
,, Chilian (*Dafila spinicauda*).
,, Red-billed (*Pæcilonetta erythrorhyncha*).
Pochard. Common or Red-headed (*Nyroca ferina*).
,, Red-crested (*Netta rufina*).
Sheld-drake. Common (*Tadorna cornuta*).
,, Ruddy (*Tadorna casarca*).
,, Variegated (*Tadorna variegata*).
Scoter. Common (*Œdemia nigra*). ?
Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*).
Swan. Black (*Cygnus atratus*).
,, Black-necked (*C. nigricollis*).
,, Common or Mute (*C. olor*).
,, Polish (*C. immutabilis*).
,, Trumpeter (*C. buccinator*).
,, Whooper (*C. musicus*).
Tree-duck. Fulvous (*Dendrocyna fulva*).
,, Red-billed (*D. autumnalis*).
Teal, Andaman (*Nettium albigulare*).
,, Baikal or Japanese (*Nettium formosum*).
,, Brazilian (*Nettium brasiliense*).
,, Chestnut-breasted (*Nettium castaneum*).
,, Chilian (*Nettium flavirostre*).
,, Common (*Nettium crecca*).
,, Slender or Sumatra (*Nettium gilberifrons*
,, Versicolor (*Querquedula versicolor*).

Wigeon. American (*Mareca americana*).
„ Chiloe (*Mareca sibilatrix*).
„ Common (*Mareca penelope*).

CHARADRIIDÆ.

Avocet (*Recurvirostris avocetta*).
Redshank (*Totanus cálidris*).
Ruff. (*Pavoncella pugnax*).
Peewits. Wattled (*Lobivanellus lobatus*).

LARIDÆ.

Gull. Great Black-backed (*Larus marinus*).
„ Hemprich's (*L. hemprichi*).
„ Herring (*L. argentatus*).
„ Jameson's (*L. jamesoni*).

PODICIPEDIDÆ.

Crebe Crested (*Podiceps cristatus*)?

TINAMIDÆ.

Tinamou. Great (*Rhynchotus refescens*), or Rufous.
„ Martineta (*Calodromas elegans*).
„ Tataupa (*Crypturus tataupa*).

RALLIDÆ.

Corncrake (*Créx prátensis*).
Moorhen (*Gallînula chlôropus*).
Porphyrio. Black-backed (*Porphyrio melanotus*).
Rail. Australian (*Rallus pectoralis*).
„ Earl's Weka (*Ocydromus earlei*).
„ Ypecaha (*Aramides ypecaha*).
Water-Hen. Black-tailed (*Tribonyx ventralis*).

MEGAPODIIDÆ.

Brush-Turkey (*Catheturus lathami*).

CRACIDÆ.

Curassow Globose (*Crax globicera*).
Curassow. Heck's (*Crax hecki*).

SPHENISCIDÆ.

Penguin. Black-footed (*Spheniscus demersus*).

RHEIIDÆ.

Rhea (*Rhea americana*).

I regret it has not been possible to keep to strict genealogical sequence with the respective groups, but the index will make reference easy.

To be continued.

Clapham C.B.A. Show.

This, the opening show of the season for the London district, was held in the St. Anne's Hall, Clapham, with an entry of 1,100; but the Canary section does not come within our scope. The British section consisted of some 200 entries spread over 20 classes.

In the GOLDFINCH CLASS, there were 8 entrants, and the honours were carried off by A. R. Jones, C. T. Maxwell, and A. Emms, in the order given.

Ten BULLFINCHES were staged, here Mr. T. Burr, C. Cooper and W. Francis, carried off honours in the order given.

Twenty LINNETS faced the judge and his task was not an easy one. F. Heal, E. Howard, and W. J. Burr were the fortunate ones as given.

Some excellent birds were staged in the class for SISKIN, MEALY REDPOLL OR TWITE and 17 competed. The honours were won by—1 W. Francis, grand Mealy Redpoll; 2 A. W. Casemore, good Siskin; 3 A. R. Jones, Twite.

In the next Class 22 LESSER REDPOLLS were staged, among them being many very fine specimens. 1 W. Francis; 2 and 3 A. J. A. Marley.

Eleven CHAFFINCHES faced the judge in the nest class, some excellent birds being staged. 1 A. J. A. Marley; 2 J. E. Jeffreys; 3 C. T. Maxwell.

A goodly array (17) of BRAMBLEFINCHES graced the bench in the next class. 1 A. C. Brotherhood, 2 J. W. Ford, 3 W. Francis, all beautiful specimens, and well placed.

In the GREENFINCH class but 7 specimens were staged, all however, being good birds. A. J. A. Marley, W. Francis, and C. Prior carried off the honours in the order given.

HAWFINCHES, were an interesting and attractive lot, seven in number. A. J. A. Marley, A. R. Jones, and F. W. Francis being 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively.

YELLOW BUNTING, only four competitors: G. Lawrence, F. Heal, and C. E. Grimwell being the winners in the order given.

A.O.S. of BUNTING. 9 exhibits, covering five species. 1 Martin and Haddon, Corn Bunting; 2 and 3 W. Francis, Snow and Lapland Bunting; all grand birds.

A.S. SEED-EATERS (Hens). 18 entries, consisting of Finches and Buntings. 1 A. J. A. Marley, Hawfinch; 2 W. Francis, Corn Bunting; 3 Mrs. J. Lane, Bramblefinch.

SONG THRUSH, etc. 8 very fine exhibits. 1 and 2 A. J. A. Marley, Blackbird and Song Thrush; 3 C. T. Maxwell, Starling.

NIGHTINGALE OR BLACKCAP. 7 beautiful specimens were staged. 1 G. W. Swain, Nightingale; 2 Otto Puck, very fine Blackcap; 3 S. E. Eastmead, another good 'Gale.

A.S. LARK OR PIPIT (5). 1, 3, and v.h.c., W. A. Lott Skylark, Shorelark; and Pipit, a fine team; 2 C. T. Maxwell, grand Tree Pipit.

MAGPIE, etc. Only 3 entrants. 1 Martin and Haddon, Magpie; 2 F. and T. Bowler, Jay; 3 A. C. Askew, Jackdaw. All three grand and most interesting exhibits.

A.S. INSECTIVOROUS (small). A most interesting class. 1 and 2 J. Frostick, Dartford Warbler, and Common Wren; 3 R. C. Tout, Gold-crested Wren; v.h.c., Otto Puck, Whitethroat; h.c. C. T.

Maxwell, Blue-headed Wagtail; c. Bearded Reedling. Lack of space forbids comment—most interesting and beautiful.

A.S. INSECTIVOROUS (large), 5. 1 and 3 A. J. A. Marley, beautiful Great Grey Shrike, and very fine Missel Thrush; 2 Miss M. Bousfield, grand Waxwing; v.h.c., C. T. Maxwell, beautiful Wryneck; h.c., R. C. Tout, another Wryneck.

RARE FEATHERED SPECIES. Only drew one entry, a beautiful Lutino Yellow Bunting, owned by Marten and Archer, it was deservedly given 1st prize.

THE FOREIGN SECTION.

A goodly array, including many rare and uncommon species, were gathered together in this section; the four classes drawing 55 entries of which four were absentees. The writer regrets he was able to spend but two hours at the show, and was able to do little more than note, the general excellence of the exhibits and the rare or uncommon species staged. There was some criticism of the awards in two classes.

A.S. PARROTS, LORIES, ETC (14). One was glad to see once more, the once common but now extremely rare, Turquoisine Parrakeet; and other rare or uncommon exhibits were Mr. Maxwell's Red-faced Conure and Brown-throated Lorikeet; Miss Clare's Hooded Parrakeets (described as Golden-shouldered in catalogue), and Mr. Ezra's Lutino Ringneck Parrakeet, which has fared somewhat hardly up to the present.

1, 3 and v.h.c., C. T. Maxwell, Brown-throated Lorikeet, Blue-winged Green Parrakeets and Red-faced Conure, a grand trio; 2 and h.c., Miss Clare, good pair Hooded Parrakeets and Turquoisine Parrakeet; v.h.c., W. Edmunds, very fine Brown's Parrakeet, A. Ezra, Lutino Ring-neck Parrakeet, and Mrs. A. Davey; h.c., Rev. G. H. Raynor, Senegal Parrot, W. Edmunds, pair Lineolated Parrakeets; c., W. Edmunds, Green Budgerigars.

COMMON SEEDEATERS (14): Some beautiful birds and uncommon ones too, were gathered together here, though it is somewhat ambiguous to call a class " Common Seedeaters " which include all species of Weavers! Mr. Sydney William's three entries of uncommon Weavers were an interesting trio—the Crimson-crowned (*Pyromelana flammiceps*), Red-headed (*Quelea erythrops*), and the Black-fronted (*Hyphantornis velatus*)—barely got their dues at the judges' hands.

1, 2 and v.h.c., R. J. Watts, exceptional pairs of Gold-breasted Waxbills and Green Avadavats, and a good Diamond Finch; 3, C. T. Maxwell, one of the best pairs of Cordon Bleus the writer has seen; v.h.c., h.c., and c., Sydney Williams, Red-headed, Black-fronted, and Crimson-crowned Weavers, a fine trio; v.h.c., Miss J. Blagg, Grey Waxbills, S. W. Beresford, Green Singingfinches, and G. Mortlock, Cordon Bleus; h.c., J. T. Hose, Gold-breasted Waxbills; c., Marten and Haddon, Diamond Finch, and J. Frostick, Orange Weavers.

A.O.S. SEEDEATERS (14): Some birds of exceptional interest and beauty were staged in this class, notably Mr. Ezra's Chilian Siskin (*Chrysomitris atrata*) new to aviculture and the show bench; Mr. Maxwell's beautiful pair of Black-faced Waxbills (*Estrilda erthyonota*) in our opinion should have been first; and Mr. Ezra's perfect pair of Vinaceous Firefinches.

1, W. Buckingham, grand pair of Crimson Finches, but a lucky win in such company; 2 and 3, A. Ezra, exquisite pair of Vinaceous Firefinches and Chilian Siskin; v.h.c., A. Ezra, fine Sepoy Finches, R. J. Watts, good Queen Whydah, C. T. Maxwell, pairs of Black-faced Waxbills and Quail Finches; h.c., T. G. Hose, Paradise Whydahs, and C. T. Maxwell, pair Melba Finches and Tricoloured Parrot Finch; c., Sidney Williams, pair Yellow Sparrows, and H. T. Gibb, Pintail Nonpareil.

A.S. INSECT- AND FRUIT-EATING BIRDS (12): Every exhibit of more than passing interest and all exquisitely beautiful, but most of the species have been already noted in past issues of "B.N." A European Bee-Eater (Mr. Ezra's) made its first appearance on the English show bench.

1, 2, 3, and v.h.c., C. T. Maxwell, Amethyst-rumped Sunbird, pair Purple Sugarbirds, Coppersmith Barbet, and Necklace Tanager, a grand team, perfect condition, and in excellent plumage; v.h.c., A. Ezra, Loo-choo Robin, Japanese Redbreast, and Amethyst-rumped Sunbird—an exquisite trio of fascinating birds, condition perfect; h.c. A. Ezra, European Bee-eater, beautiful exhibit; Otto Puck, good Shamah; Miss L. Clare pair Indian Zosterops; J. M. Walsh, exquisite Black-throated Tanager.

The Clapham C.B.A. are to be congratulated on a most successful show and excellent management—if anything, the hall was none too large for the number of exhibits. W.T.P.

British Bird Calendar.

[We hope members from other districts will send in notes.—ED.]

October 6th. On this date I witnessed the arrival of many Chaffinches, they appeared to be very tired, resting on the outhouses and any other handy places. I did not notice any hens among them.

October 7th. I saw eight or ten Blue Tits in the garden.

October 9th. Saw one Gold-Crest.

October 13—14. Many Thrushes arrived, Missel, Song, and a few Redwings,

October 16th. Saw a small party of Snow Buntings on the shore.

October 20. Three Bramble Finches feeding on some waste seed in the garden. Larks noticed crossing the River Humber from an Easterly direction, saw the first Hooded Crow.

October 23—26. Many Hooded Crows and Larks arriving.

R. S. October 29, 1912. (Cleethorpes).

MIGRATION NOTES.

October 1st, 1912.—Two Swallows seen.

2/10/'12.—One Swallow in the morning; two more at 5 p.m. Flock of about thirty Pied Wagtails flying south at 5 p.m., enormous numbers of Starlings arrived about 4 p.m. to feed on the mud banks and roost in the high elms. Several House Martins arrived at 5 p.m.

3/10/'12.—Large flocks of Wigeon arrived. A Chiff-Chaff and a Willow-Warbler in my garden, feeding all day. A flock of about fifty Goldfinches seen. Great numbers of Hedge-Sparrows, many more than usual seen during last few weeks. Usual flocks of Starlings arrived in afternoon to feed and roost.

4/10/'12.—Party of Pied Wagtails and usual flock of Starlings. One Wheatear seen. No Starlings arrived to-day. Fine and sunny day, cold. Twelve House Martins going *North* at 5 p.m.

5/10/'12.—Three Swallows arrived at 3 p.m. By 4 o'clock about fifty birds hawking insects. One Meadow Pipit in garden. Only a few Pied-Wagtails seen, also only a few Goldfinches. Still a great number of Hedge-Sparrows about No Starlings seen.

6/10/'12.—Very warm to-day in the sun, no wind. Nine Swallows seen in village street. One Meadow Pipit. Still no Starlings.

7/10/'12.—At 3 p.m. about 100 Swallows arrived apparently from the S.W., and flying slowly in circles, went North. At 4 p.m. a second (or possibly the same) flock of about 100 arrived also from S.W. A flock of about fifty Goldfinches feeding in the garden. No Starlings seen, except one or two odd birds about the house.

8/10/'12.—Hot sun with S.E. wind. One Swallow seen. Great numbers of Meadow-Pipits on the coast in parties of five to thirty. At mid-day, directly tide was out, parties of five to sixteen Teal arrived to feed on the mud. Very few Pied Wagtails seen. A few Wheatears seen on the coast. Most of the Hedge-Sparrows have gone now. A few Curlew seen about; great flocks though feeding on the coast. Still no Starlings in any number.

9/10/'12.—Very fine day. Huge flocks of Starlings arrived at 4 p.m. again. 12 House Martins arrived at 3 p.m.

11/10/'12.—Fine, still day. Huge flocks of Starlings to-night.

20/10/'12.—Fine day with cold N. wind. Very few Teal for the time of year. A good many Pied Wagtails about in small companies. A Wheatear seen occasionally. No Starlings for some days till to-night, when huge flocks arrived. One Green-shank feeding below village.

23/10/'12.—Small parties of Meadow Pipits leaving shore in direction of Isle of Wight.

25/10/12.—Flock of twenty Curlew going south.

26/10/12.—Raining all day; gentle N. wind. About 20 House Martins flying round, by the (Hants.) Church in the morning. Apparently young birds.

31/10/'12.—A few Meadow-pipits about.

Large flock of small "shore-birds," Dunlin, etc., on the shore.

P. G. Beaulieu, S. Hants.

Book Notices and Reviews.

THE GAMBIA ITS HISTORY, ANCIENT, MEDIÆVAL, AND MODERN. By Henry Fenwick Reeve, C.M.G., etc., with many illustrations and maps. London—Smith, Elder & Co., 15 Waterloo Place. 10s. 6d. net.

This book is one of the most fascinating of its kind that we have read, and while the Author has handled his subject in a natural and comprehensive manner, there is not a dry (dull) page in the book.

The plan of the book is admirable, it is divided into three parts:—

Part I.—HISTORICAL REVIEW, its comprehensiveness is indicated by the period it covers—B.C. 600 (Chapter I.), to 1874-1904 A.D. (Chapter XII).

Part II. GEOGRAPHICAL, GEOLOGICAL AND ETHNICAL. This section comprises five chapters, and lucidly portrays the Geographical and Geological aspects of the Colony, and with similar clearness passes in review the native races, their religions, customs, etc.

Part III. NATURAL HISTORY: BIRDS, BEASTS, AND FISHES. Comprises five chapters. The chapter on "Birds" is from the pen of our member Dr. E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., who is well known to "B.N." readers, by the serial "Birds of Gambia" which has been running through our pages for the past three years. He, with his usual clearness and lucidity, passes in review, the whole of the Gambian Birds, within the compass of some 20 pages, and most thoroughly too, in spite of the limitations of space.

Capt. W. B. Stanley contributes a most interesting chapter on Wild Animals and Hunting, the remaining chapters deal with Amphibians, and Fishes. A most useful appendix of a List of Birds, Beasts, and Fishes, with Native Names, and a comprehensive index complete, a most readable book.

To those interested in our Colonies and their national aspect, with England's responsibilities thereto, this book will be read and re-read with avidity, even though England does not always shine in all her dealings with those she has sworn to protect with her National Flag, but we will let the author speak:

> "It is perhaps too late to right the wrongs of the people "who have trusted in us for hundreds of years, wrongs that, commencing with slave dealing in the Sixteenth Century, culminated "in breaches of trust by the barter of territory, in the Nineteenth "and Twentieth Centuries; but at least we can repent and sin no "more." . . . . . "To the human race, black or white, "liberty, lands, and peace of mind are often considered worth "many lives in warfare, and to barter in cold blood these ideals "of primitive races, with whom we have entered into solemn "treaties to protect and sustain, is but little less vile." (The reference is to the Congo atrocities). "These in the Gambia, we "have continually sacrificed in the interest of our foreign relations, "and it is little to be proud of that we should be unable to "maintain our place in Europe among the nations of the world "without bartering away the lands of our subjects in Africa."

The general reader will also take the book up again and again, and gain by the reading of it. The section devoted to Natural History will specially appeal to our readers, while comprehensive it is also popular and yet scientific. While but a small portion of the book deals with birds, it is a book we cordially commend to our readers.

Editorial.

HYBRIDS: Several of these have cropped up during the season from the mating of odd birds, some of which we have already noted.

ALARIO FINCH (*Alario alario*) x CANARY: In the aviary of the Hon. Mary C. Hawke, a brood of three, of this cross have been reared this season, which are proving good songsters, as is usually the case. This cross as a rule do not produce handsome hybrids, the colours being somewhat nondescript and impure. One of the above brood has recently died and the body was sent to us for inspection, as it was a very handsome specimen, we append discription, it was a male.

Description: Head, neck and throat dusky-black, with the centre of ear coverts and a small bib yellowish; wings and mantle mahogany-brown, quills blackish-brown, primaries tipped and secondaries margined and tipped with mahogany-brown; middle and lower back and upper tail coverts palish cinnamon; tail-feathers black, with broad mahogany-brown margins; chest and upper breast yellowish-white, remainder of under surface white, sides of body and under tail-coverts pale brown; beak, upper mandible blackish-horn, lower light horn colour; legs and feet blackish-brown, claws deep black. Total length 5 inches, tail 2,

The shape and size that of a Canary, the various colour areas being fairly pure, and not blotched or blurred as is usual with this cross.

BLACK-HEADED SISKIN (*C. icterica*) x CANARY HYBRID: In Mr. Nicalson's Aviary at Walton-on-Thames, several broods of the above hybrid have been reared, and very handsome birds they are too, the cocks being good songsters; Mr. Nicalson kindly sent us a pair for inspection. In size and shape they are about the size of a Norwich Canary, but in many respects they favour the Siskin, notably so in all the cocks having dark heads, and in the striations and wing markings, though there are no distinct yellow wing bars. The beak, legs and feet are canary like and of light horn-colour.

Description: Forehead, crown, lores, ear-coverts, throat and centre of fore-neck and breast bronzy-black; chin and eye region yellowish-olive; neck, mantle, back and wings olive-green, striated and variegated with blackish-olive; quills and tail feathers blackish, with olive-green margins; upper tail-coverts golden yellow; sides of neck yellowish-olive; abdomen brownish-olive, with a streak of golden-yellow in the centre, and the sides of body strongly suffused with the same colour.

Female: Very similar, but lacks the bronzy-black markings which adorn the crown, throat and breast of the male; the hues of her plumage are not so pure, the markings and colour areas less distinct than those of her mate, but nevertheless a handsome bird.

In some respects not unlike Green Canaries, but brighter and with the markings and colour areas differently arranged.

QUAIL FINCHES (*Ortygospiza polyzona*) The accompanying beautiful drawing from Mr. Goodchild's brush, from a pair of this species, exhibited by our member Mr. C. T. Maxwell at the recent Clapham Show, aptly depicts, in a characteristic attitude and environment, a quaint and beautiful species. Whether kept in a cage or an aviary, they should have grass to squat amongst, in the aviary they will favour a bank if there be one, and choose small bare patches amid tallish grass as their squatting ground ; thus seen whether basking in the sun, or dozing, or foraging amid the grass for small insects, or paying visits to the seed-hoppers they are most interesting and beautiful objects. Though somewhat lethargic within the limits of a cage, they are nevertheless objects of interest especially if their cage be a long one (it need be neither deep nor high) and furnished with a patch of turf at each end. They thrive on the usual seeds, flowering grass and an occasional insect.

A sketchy description of their attractive plumage is dark grey on the upper surface, rich chocolate-brown on the breast and abdomen, with the breast and sides of body barred with white ; eye-region and chin also white ; bill, legs and feet red.

Correspondence.

QUAIL HYBRIDS.

Sir,—It may be of some interest to our members if I record the rearing of thirteen hybrid quails in one of my aviaries this summer.

An odd cock Squamata Quail mated with an odd Californian, they duly nested and reared two broods, nine and four chicks respectively. The Squamata did most of the "mothering."

They are now quite grown up, and are through the moult, and have become very handsome birds.

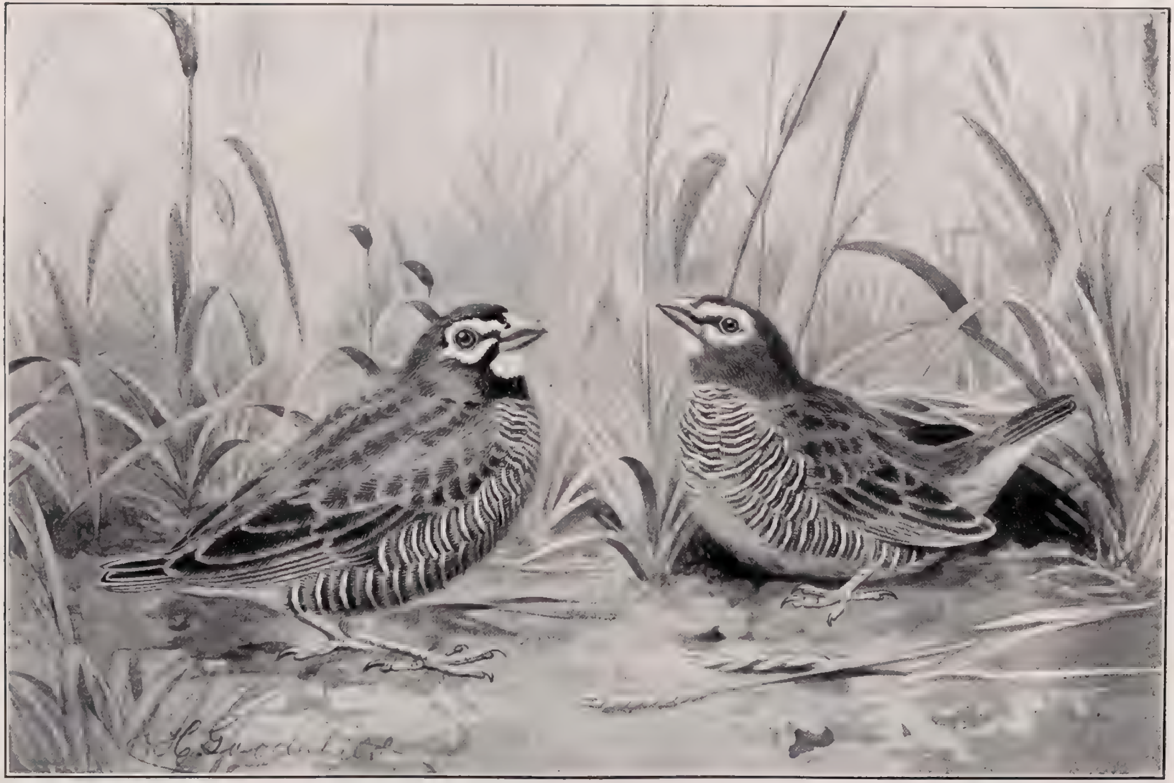
The cocks have the band underneath the throat, which is black in the Californian, a pale grey, the back of the head is also of this colour. The breast has the chocolate marking as in the Californian, but the barring is blue-grey as in the Squamata.

The hens also favour the Californian in colour, but are brighter.

These hybrids are certainly very striking and handsome birds.

I do not think this cross has been previously reared, if so, will the breeder kindly give particulars?

Boyers' House, Westbury. WM. SHORE BAILY.
Wilts, October 22, 1912.



Quail Finches (*Ortygospiza polyzona*).

From birds exhibited by C. T. Maxwell, Esq., at Clapham Show.

NESTING RESULTS AT POLTIMORE PARK AVIARIES.

Sir,—The following species were successful in rearing their young.

Ribbon Finch.
Spice Finch.
Fire-finch.
Zebra Finch.
Gouldian Finch.
Grey-Singing Finch.
Silverbills.
Bengalese.
Cordon Bleu.
Australian Crested Pigeon.
Adelaide + Pennant Parrakeets.
Red-rump Parrakeets.
Cockateels.
Budgerigars.
White Java Sparrows.
*Black-headed Weaver.
*Napoleon.
Long-tailed Grassfinch.

The following species incubated and hatched out, but failed to rear their young.

Australian Plumed Dove.
Bleeding-heart Pigeon.
Guira Cuckoo.
Ruficauda Finch.
Olive Finch.
Pope Cardinal.
Red-crested Cardinal.

The following species nested and incubated, but failed to hatch out, owing to various causes.

Brown-shouldered Tanagers.
Mexican Crested Quail.
Cuban Quail.
Malabar Mynah.
Mexican Yellow Grosbeak.
Rosy Pastor.
Ring-neck Parrakeets.
Bib Finch.
Striated Finch.
Lavender Finch.
Orange-cheeked Waxbills.

*Not previously bred in Great Britain.

LORD POLTIMORE.

Poltimore Park,
Exeter, October 15, 1912.

FOR THE UTMOST HAPPINESS OF CAGED BIRDS.

Sir,—My excuse for writing this, is a suspicion that many members are, like myself, unable to indulge themselves with an aviary, and have to be content with the possession of one or more Cages. It is probable that fanciers of birds—other than Canaries—have not yet reached near to perfection in the treatment of their feathered prisoners. Exhibitions teach nothing, and the scope of books is too general and comprehensive for a thorough and intimate handling of my topic.

I suggest that a Symposium each month, in "Bird Notes," might be the means of compiling a mass of original and valuable experiences and opinions from those who specialise in certain species, in cages—not aviaries.

Budgerigars, for instance. In a flight-cage, 30ins. high by 24 inches long. I keep two pairs—one green, the other yellow. The cage is light enough so be eatily carried about, and placed in sunny shady, or sheltered positions, as seems advisable. All but the two top perches have been removed, so as to allow space for flight. The dome is filled once a week with fresh branches which the birds delight to peel. What trees produce the most suitable green twigs for this purpose ?

As each pair like to feed together, a two-hole hopper has been given to them. The food is a mixture of two parts canary seed with one of millet; occasional handfuls of oats, raw or malted; flowering grasses of all kinds, and lettuce when obtainable. The cage-floor is covered with silver-sand. What improvements, or variations, are recommended in these matters ?

A five-inch zinc dish serves for bath and drinking-trough, and of course such elementary matters as cleanliness and protection from cold draughts, have attention. At night the cage is covered with a green baize cloth. Are the fumes from a gas lamp and fire harmful ?

The birds have so far thriven exceedingly. Without being exactly tame, they are not subject to panics, and look on with more curiosity than apprehension, when anything novel presents itself. Highly intelligent and light-hearted creatures, they appreciate toys. A rope ladder and a bit of hempen string knotted at intervals of two inches, keep them occupied for hours. I intend to add to these the revolving wheel from a mouse cage. Can anyone favour me with other suggestions ?

"PSITTACUS."

[We shall be pleased to find space for any correspondence or articles bearing upon the above topic. If the keepers of birds in cages feel aviarists are getting more than their share, they must *look at home* for the cause—copy has been solicited again and again, but the keepers of birds in cages have not proved responsive—the matter rests with themselves, the subject should prove of general interest.—Ed].

Post Mortem Reports

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent ; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

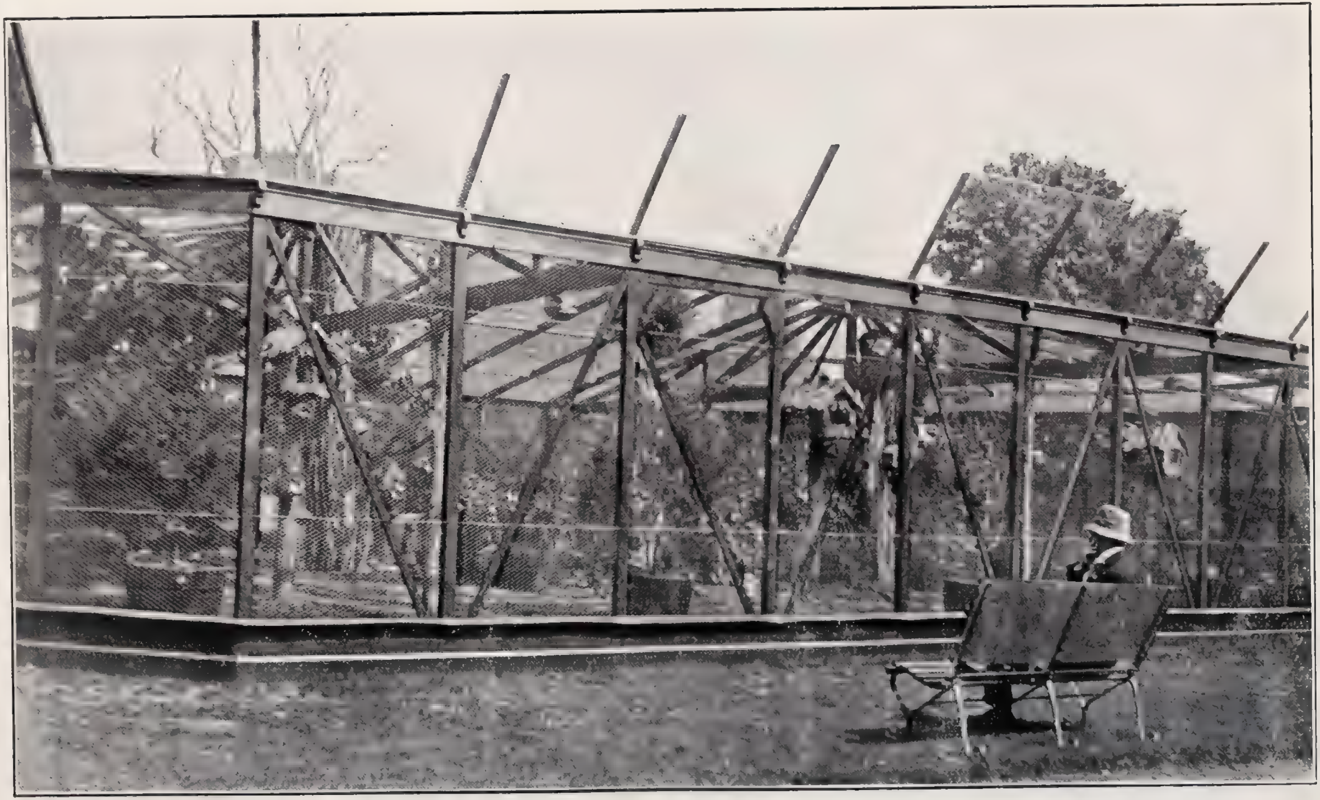
Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st. of any month

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of the F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

SHAMA (♂). (Capt. Reeve, Lincoln). The cause of death was pneumonia, which was of some standing.

ST. HELENA WAXBILL (♂). (W. A. Bainbridge, Surrey). Cause of death, ruptured liver, and in consequence, internal hæmorrhage.

Continued on page 72 of inset (green pages)



The Aviary—Poltimore Park, in which the Napoleon and Black-headed Weavers were reared.

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BIRD NOTES:

— THE —

JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB

The Breeding of Napoleon and Black-headed Weavers at Poltimore Park.

BY LORD POLTIMORE.

NAPOLEON WEAVERS (*Pyromelana afra*). A pair of this species were observed in the month of July, building a nest in a box-tree, about four feet from the ground.

The nest was composed of grass and coco-nut fibre, beautifully woven together, but not lined in any way.

It was something like the shape of a bag, with a round top, and the opening at top right-hand side.

Three eggs were laid, and all hatched out, the incubation period being from 12 to 14 days.

One bird died while still quite young, the remaining two are now alive and well, and left the nest within three weeks.

They are of a dull colour, not unlike the hen.

Shortly after the young bird had left the nest either the same or another pair of Napoleons built another nest, and reared one young bird, which was ultimately killed, we believe, by a Cardinal.

During the incubation period the cock bird was frequently to be seen sitting on the top of the box bush, mounting guard over the hen.

The young, as far as it is possible to tell, were fed on mealworms, and seeds of different kinds, There was also fruit and soft food in the aviary for the other inhabitants, which consisted, roughly speaking, of 250 birds, including the following:—

Australian Plumed Doves, Australian Ground Doves, Senegal Doves, Passerine Doves, Bronze-winged Pigeons, Crested Pigeons, Bleeding-Heart Pigeons, a variety of Quails, Brahminy Mynahs, Golden-Crested Mynahs, Malabar

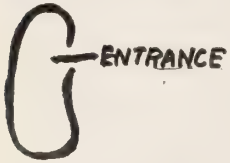
Mynahs, Cardinals, Grey and White Java Sparrows, Wydahs, about 30 other different Weavers, Saffron Finches, Green Singing Finches, Cuban Finches, Olive Finches, Zebra Finches, Ruficaudas, Siberian Goldfinches, Buntings, Tanagers, Chestnut-fronted Troupials, Rosy Pastors, Military Starlings, Orange-headed and White-throated Ground Thrushes, Black-faced Lovebirds, Pekin Robins, Green, Yellow, and Blue Budgerigars, and a host of other small birds.

The aviary is roughly speaking, 24 yards long, 17½ yards wide, 15 feet high in the middle, and 12 feet high at the outside.

It is thickly planted with shrubs and trees, such as box, veronica, privet, laurel, cypress, berberis, evergreen oak, firs, and trunks of old trees.

The photo (see frontispiece) accompanying these notes was taken two years ago, it has since been planted and there is now an abundance of natural cover.

BLACK-HEADED WEAVERS (*Hyphantornis melanocephalus*). A pair of this species also nested in this aviary in July, and built a curious snail-shaped nest, in an evergreen oak, about 6½ feet above the ground. The accompanying rough sketch conveys fairly accurately the shape and proportions of the nest. We have no idea of the number of eggs laid, nor their colour, as the nest was never approached. One young bird was hatched out and successfully reared.



Last year the Black-headed Weavers (same pair) reared two young, cock and hen, which are still in the aviary.

The young cock came into breeding plumage at the same time as his father, but this pair of young birds have made no attempt to breed.

During incubation the cock bird amused himself by building a toy nest close to that in which the hen was sitting, which he frequently occupied.

We regret we cannot supply more details of the breeding of these pretty and interesting little birds, but we have made a rule never to examine the nests, and during the breeding season the aviary is interfered with as little as possible, and to this we attribute entirely our good fortune in breeding these birds.

The nests were unfortunately destroyed by other birds, as material for building purposes, before we succeeded in photographing them.

Breeding of Hooded Parrakeets

(*Psephotus cucullatus*).

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

Last year (1911) I had my lovely pair of Hooded Golden-shouldered Parrakeets in a room in the house, along with several other rare birds, and there they had two clutches of eggs, in November and December respectively.

Each time three were laid, but although there were certainly young birds in the second clutch, they did not hatch, in spite of the hen bird sitting well, and over her proper time

In the spring of this year (1912), I turned them into a large aviary, with a fine choice of nesting places, consisting of many large and natural hollow logs, brought from the woods. Although the Hooded Parrakeets were interested in these abodes, and often investigated them, nothing happened, and at the end of August I left for Italy until the 20th of October In the same aviary four young Queen Alexandra Parrakeets had been hatched during the summer, and reared to full maturity. On my return, my bird-keeper told me that the hen Hooded Parrakeet had evidently been sitting for some time in a log which is nearly six feet long, laid horizontally on some cross beams under the roof which partly projects from the roof of the inner building over the open flights.

A day or two after my return, I began to wonder whether the bird really had eggs, for I saw her frequently about in the aviary, Still! she did sometimes enter the log and slept there Some ten days after I felt I must assure myself of what was happening for better or for worse, and accordingly climbed up a ladder to try and look into the log, which is hollow all through with a hole at each end.

The first thing that I was aware of was an extremely strong odour of mice, and after peering for a minute or two, I made out two small round heads which were moving, and were silhouetted in the darkness against the light which came in at the other end of the log.

I felt dreadfully disappointed—"Mice of *course*," and said as much to the bird-keeper. And yet after that both of the Hooded Parrakeets continued to enter the log.

On the 15th of November, I took an electric bull's-eye lantern, climbed up again, shot the light down the tunnel of decayed wood, and in a moment saw what was there—*four* most beautiful young birds, all but ready to fly, which began to scuttle towards the other end of the log, the flooring of which seemed to have been bitten up into fine chips almost through its entire length. And moreover, there had been five young ones, for a dried up body of one, apparently between a fortnight and three weeks old was visible.

The mice had nibbled it, but after death I think; and a mouse actually ran out of the log.

On the following day, having fears that the young Parrakeets would injure themselves against the wire netting when they flew from the log, or fall into the pool of water below, etc, I again climbed up, and by dint of poking at them with a long cane, finally induced them to scramble out at one end Two flew well at once, the other two moving in a decidedly floppy manner and tumbling down, luckily without injuring themselves.

The most robust of the family dashed off, and to my dismay banged hard against the wire netting, the male bird following with alarmed chirrups and cries. However, I gathered them safely into a large box, already filled with rotten wood at the bottom, and succeeded in decoying the parent birds into the roosting house, where I caught them, and placed the whole family in a small inner aviary where the risk of injury to the young ones is very small. I also did this because these Parrakeets being natives of tropical Australia, *i.e.*, the north—ran the risk of succumbing to the damp cold and uncertainty of November in England.

The young were all as plump as could be, with well-filled crops. Except that two of them were of a brighter green on the underparts, they almost exactly resemble the adult female, but their ceres and bills are orange-yellow, On two of them there is certainly a warmer tint of the future brilliant verdigris green of the male's underparts,

The parents, besides eating seeds and chickweed, etc,, have had biscuit sop, and, what was perhaps still more helpful. fresh gentles, of which they have eaten a great many during the period of rearing their family.

These most beautiful Parrakeets, have, I believe, not been known to rear their young in captivity until now.

I have taken one of the young birds, which looks like a male, to keep as a tame pet. By the 24th of November it could feed perfectly by itself, and in three days from the time that it was separated from its parents, would answer my whistle and perch on my fingers.

Species which have Reared Young in Captivity in Great Britain.

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

(Continued from page 314).

TINAMIDÆ.
  Tinamou. Partridge (*Nothoprocta perdicaria*).
TURNICIDÆ.
  Greater Button-Quail (*Turnix tanki*).
  Varied Hemipode or Bustard-Quail (*Turnix varia*).
PHASIANIDÆ.
  Capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*).
  Colin. Scaly-breasted (*Callipepla squamata*)—see Squamata Quail.
  Francolin. Black (*Francolinus vulgaris*).
  „ Gray's Bare-throated (*Pternistes leucoscepus*).
  Grouse. Willow (*Lagopus lagopus*).
  Guinea-Fowl. Common (*Numida meleagris*).
  „ „ Coronated (*Guttera pucherani*).
  Hemipode—see Quail and TURNICIDÆ.
  Jungle-Fowl. Bankiva (*Gallus bankiva*).
  „ „ Sonnerat's (*G. sonnerati*).
  Partridge. Barbary (*Caccabis petrosa*).
  „ Common (*Perdix cinerea*).
  „ Hey's Rock- (*Ammoperdix heyi*).
  „ Red-legged French (*Caccabis rufa*).
  Peafowl. Indian (*Pavo cristatus*).
  „ Javan (*P. muticus*).
  Pheasant. Amherst's (*Thaumalea amherstiæ*).
  „ Elliot's (*Phasianus ellioti*).

Pheasant. Gold (*Thaumalea pictus*).
,, Kalij (*Gennæus albi-cristatus*).
,, Peacock (*Polyplectron chinquis*).
,, Reeve's (*Phasianus reevesi*).
,, Silver (*Euplocamus nycthemerus*).

The following species of Pheasants have all been bred in captivity: Mongolian (*P. mongolicus*), Old English (*P. colchicus*), Common (*P. torquatus*), Versicolour (*P. versicolor*), Prince of Wales (*P. principalis*), Glittering (*P. sœmmerringi, scintillans*) 'and probably others—but all, so far as I have been able to ascertain, by the aid of incubator and foster parents, and therefore are not eligible for this list; but all, with many other unnamed species, would qualify for the Club's breeding medal if reared in captivity under natural conditions, that is, eggs incubated and chicks brooded by the respective species.

Quail, Argoondah (*Perdicula argoondah*).
,, Australian Stubble (*Corturnix pectoralis*).
,, Californian (*Lophortyx californica*).
,, Chinese Painted (*Excalfactoria chinensis*).
,, Greater Button—see under TURNICIDÆ.
,, Harlequin (*Coturnix delagorguei*).
,, Island Painted (*Excalfactoria lineata*).
,, Rain (*Coturnix coromandelica*).
,, Squamata (*Callipepla squamata*)—see under Colin.
,, Swamp (*Synœcus australis*).
,, Varied Bustard—see under TURNICIDÆ.
,, White-cheeked Crested (*Eupschortyx leucopogon*).
Roulroul (*Rollulus roulroul*).

Tragopan, Cabot's (*Tragopan caboti*).
,, Horned (*T. satyra*).
,, Temminck's (*T. temmincki*).

Turkey, North American (*Meleagris americana*).

Wood-Partridge, Red-crested (*Rollulus roulroul*).

PTEROCLIDÆ.

Sand-Grouse, Greater Pin-tailed (*Pterocles alchatus*).
,, ,, Lesser Pin-tailed (*P. exustus*).

CORRECTION. The entry on page 314, "Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)" is an error, and should be ruled out, as this species has not been reared in this country according to the conditions of this list.

This completes my task, so far as species are concerned. In the course of next volume I hope to compile a similar list of hybrids. The writer ventures to hope members will compare the list with their records and supply any omissions, as though research has been carried as far as possible and every effort made to make it complete. There have been many limitations, and he much fears a few species have at any rate been overlooked.

Birds of Gambia.

BY E. HOPKINSON, D.S.O., M.A., M.B.

(*Continued from page* 296.

F. albigularis. WHITE-THROATED FRANCOLIN.

Range West Africa; Gambia; Casamance (*Ogilvie Grant*).

These handsome Francolins are much more locally distributed than the common "Wallo" and are never found in coveys of any size, but usually in pairs, rarely some four or five together. They also prefer rather thicker cover than their larger relatives and but rarely visit the rice-fields and swamps, but frequent patches of fairly dense bush, along the edges of which one meets with them, and from which they never venture far, and into which they retreat when disturbed. In their other habits, food and flight, they resemble *bicalcaratus*, but compared with that species they must be considered rather rare birds here, as in (say) a year's bag of Bushfowl over the whole country, the White-throated Francolins or "Partridges" (as they are often called here) will not amount to more than about 1%, and even in districts where they do occur, they are confined to certain limited areas.

In size they are considerably smaller than the common Bushfowl, measuring about 9 niches in length, but are much handsomer birds with their bright chestnut markings and yellow legs. The sexes differ, the male being a rich chestnut slightly marked with black above, bright uniform buff below and having a large area on the chin and throat white, while the female is above a duller chestnut more flecked with black feather-streaks than her mate and dull fawn mottled with brown below, the fawn extending on to the throat and leaving a comparatively small white area there. In both sexes the flights are chestnut, the legs gamboge yellow and armed with spurs, a pair in the male, single in the female.

F. ahanta. AHANTA FRANCOLIN.

Range. West Africa, Gambia to Nigeria.

This is the largest of our Francolins and differs considerably from the others in its haunts and habits. It is never met with in coveys, but only in pairs or singly and is absolutely confined to thick bush or jungle, always near water, so that it is but seldom shot, though I think it occurs in suitable localities all over the Protectorate, but is nowhere really common. Its cry is a deeper and more guttural one than that of the "Wallo," and unlike that bird it habitually perches on trees. It is known here by the Mandingoes as the Sutokono Wallo, *i.e.*, the Forest Bushfowl.

Its general plumage is of the game-bird pattern, but the browns are duller and darker than usual. Its distinctive features, besides its size, are the strong orange-pink legs and beak. Its length is about 15 inches. The iris is sepia brown.

F. lathami. LATHAM'S FRANCOLIN.

Range. West Africa, Loango to Senegambia. (*Ogilvie Grant*).

This bird I have never seen although I know well the country near the Kunchow creek, whence came the skins in the British Museum, which are, as stated above, the only specimens known. As it appears never to have been seen since these skins were sent home (some 50 years ago, I believe), one is afraid that it must be considered a lost species, at any rate as far as the Gambia is concerned, for this country is now comparatively thickly populated and so well known all over, that such a handsome game-bird with a colouration scheme so distinctly unusual among African Francolins, is hardly likely to have escaped notice for so long if still existent. In Ogilvie Grant's Handbook, the male is described as ten inches in length and olive brown above with black throat and foreneck and breast black marked with round white spots. The female is somewhat smaller and with the breast feathers margined with brown.

Ptilopachys fuscus. STONE-PHEASANT.

Range. Africa. Senegambia and Gold Coast to Kordofan and Abyssinia. (*H.L.*).

These charming little Game-birds, whose resemblance to dark-coloured Bantam hens is really quite extraordinary, are quite common in the Gambia. Their general colour is chocolate-brown, more rufous on the under surface of the wings, the male being distinctly darker than the female; the bill and feet are pink and they have a small comb of the same colour. Their size is that of ordinary Bantam, *i.e.*, 10—11 inches long.

They frequent the ironstone ridges, which intersect a large part of the more inland parts of the country, and which are covered with bamboo growth varied here and there with patches of thin scrub of other kinds. Here they are found in pairs or small parties of about half a dozen, which lie very closely and when disturbed prefer to trust to their powers of hiding rather than to their wings, as they will wait till almost trodden on before moving, and then they either scuttle away, exactly like frightened chickens, dodging in and out among the rocks, or rise with a scuffle and scattering of dust, to fly rapidly away for a few yards and then drop again into shelter. They never appear to perch on trees or to move far away from their accustomed haunts, and they must be able to get along with very little water, at any rate during the dry season, for then there is never any on the hills they frequent and one never sees them like other Game-birds going to or from water. Their note is a low-pitched whistle. They are not at all easy birds to shoot, as they are only flushed with difficulty and even then they are usually out of sight again in a second. It always seems to happen, too, that when a covey gets up, one finds oneself balanced on one leg on a rock looking for a fairly suitable place for one's next step. If, too, one does not drop the bird dead it will generally be lost, as it will almost certainly manage to struggle away into some hole in the rocks. In such holes, which are often very deep, they nest, commencing to lay about the end of May, and I think bringing off two broods in the season. The young after leaving the nest generally remain with their parents for some time, and form with them the small parties one generally meets with. Their food consists mainly of the seeds of the bamboos and various grasses together with berries and no doubt a considerable addition of insect-life as well, and must be found chiefly, if not entirely on the ironstone hills, as it is only occasionally that one comes across them in the open or on the cultivated ground, the common place to find these little "Bushfowl" being far away from any kind of farm right in the middle of a rough stretch of rough ironstone country. They are sometimes trapped by the natives during the rains and the few I have had in captivity have done well on the ordinary native corns, together with boiled rice, while white ants, when obtainable were always greedily devoured.

Their popular name here is the "Stone" or Rock Bush-fowl," while native names are 'Berrito-Wallo" (=Rock-Bush-fowl) or while their native names are "Berrito-Wallo" (=Bush-chicken) in Joloff.

(To be continued).

Prolific Breeding of Shamas.

By Hubert D. Astley, M.A., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

My pair of Shamas nested in May, building with dead leaves and hay in a box intended for Parrakeets: but although three or four eggs were laid, they were not hatched.

No sooner however, were they removed, than the birds commenced again, and in June, towards the end, four fine young birds came out, which prospered well. When they had been a month out of the nest, the male bird began to bully them, although the female continued to feed them. Then a most unlooked for thing happened. I was watching the young Shamas with their parents one morning, when I suddenly saw the female fly up and feed a fifth bird, which was sitting outside a nesting-box—a little fellow with an apology for a tail —a nestling! ! When had she had time to hatch a second brood, for she had seemed to be always about and busy with her four elder children.

The next day there were five younger ones out, in all making eleven Shamas in the one aviary!

It will for ever be to me a mystery how that bird managed to repair her nest (if she did?), lay five eggs, incubate and hatch them, and then rear the lot, feeding four well-grown young ones as well, and apparently only doing the latter, until the second family appeared. Unfortunately when I was away from England in September, and October, the old male killed four of his sons, and harried one or two of his daughters, whilst the poor wife succumbed during her moult, no doubt owing to the strain to which her system had been subjected. When she had her second nest, from which the four were reared, she was dangerously ill through egg-binding, so that I had to take her in to the house for a night. In the morning her egg (a soft-shelled one) was laid, and as she looked all right again, I returned her to the aviary. When she flew in, her mate flew to her, singing boisterously as he did so, and mating immediately took place, after which she popped into her nest. Truly a wonderful bird!

Freely Imported Species and Their Treatment.

NESTING OF THE ORANGE-CHEEKED WAXBILL.

(*Speræginthus melpodus*).

By Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S., M.B.N.H.S.

I do not know of any event that has given me greater pleasure of recent years than the successful rearing of a brood of three young birds of this common, but beautiful and interteresting species.

I have kept Orange-cheeks on and off for about thirty years, and though there have been numerous attempts and several times clutches of eggs have been laid, but till August of this year I have never come anywhere near success with this species, and my experience is not a solitary one, for there are only one or two recorded instances of young having been reared.

Their demeanour is so well known, that I need not enlarge upon their fascinating deportment and vivacity. I know of no more fascinating sight than to watch a group of these birds flitting to and fro, butterfly-like, in a large natural aviary. So long as there is seeding grass or weeds, midges and blight they visit the food hoppers but little and the beauty and gracefulness of their movements, when clinging, in every imaginable position, to a slender stemmed panicle of seed, which sways and bends beneath even their slight weight, is simply indescribable. Their beauty is undeniable and they always charm and interest, however well one may be acquainted with them.

While I shall not attempt to describe the plumage of so well known a species, I propose making a few remarks as to the plumage of the sexes. My male (a fully adult bird). passed last winter out-of-doors, in a large aviary, with a shelter shed attached for such as choose to avail themselves of it; he is a fine, large, well coloured specimen; his mate is one of a dozen mixed Waxbills, kindly presented to me by Dr. Hopkinson, out of the consignment he landed in May last and may be a much younger bird. When one sees them side by side the male is perceptiby larger, he is also, if anything, more brightly coloured, his orange cheeks or ear patches, are larger than those of his mate and the ventral region of the male is distinctly orange, this area in the female being merely tinted with orange. I give these distinctions for what they are worth, they are all taken from one pair, but if they should prove constant it ought not to be difficult to pick out a pair, from a crowd of adult birds.

Now to return to the nesting episode, I fear I can give very little data concerning it, for during August and September I have been at home very few week-ends. Up to the middle of July I had noticed no attempts at nesting, then about July 15th I noticed them attempting to breed in a Rambler-rose, about two feet from the ground, but the nest was never completed; this rose had a number of long laterals, bowing down to the ground, forming a more or less dense thicket, with the tall grass growing beneath it, and the Orange-cheeks were observed to be spending most of their time therein, but I concluded the attraction was blight, and grass seed. One afternoon in August (6th) I was in the aviary, and considered the rose was getting too untidy and I began to tie it up to the standard, when out flew the Orange-cheeks, and a search revealed a spherical nest, about six inches in diameter, at the foot of a tussock of coarse grass, which was some twelve inches high and bent over almost to the ground, similar to a fountain spray, almost obscuring the nest, it is a marvel it was not trodden on during the operation of tying up the rose. So cunningly was it constructed, that it was only after a very close examination and some disturbance of the screening grass, that the entrance hole was discovered; the hole was nearer the ground than the top of the nest, but the passage from it sloped upwards, the base of the nest actually resting on the ground. The nest was a perfect sphere, very closely woven, outwardly of coarse grasses, and hay, lined internally with fine hay, dandelion down, and feathers. The shell of the nest was nearly one inch thick, and judging by the appearance of the birds and the feel of the interior of the nest after the young had flown, I conclude that even the abnormal rains of August had failed to penetrate it, for though the base of the nest was on the ground, its interior was quite dry.

In a mixed aviary it is rather difficult to state fully what the birds fed on, but I have seen them take blight, midges, and small flies into the nest, and also go to the nest after chewing up and eating a mealworm, and again after a hearty meal of millet and Canary seed—dock and grass seeds (half-ripe) also bulked largely in their daily *menu* I deduce from my observations that the nestlings were fed entirely on regurgitated food; for I never saw them carrying food in their beak when going to or into the nest.

I first heard the young calling for food on August 20. two young left the nest on September 3, and another on the 4th all of which have been fully reared, though fed by their parents up till September 15th, the young were observed to crack small millet on the fourth day after leaving the nest.

On leaving the nest, the plumage of the nestlings, was very similar to that of their parents, but a little greyer, the orange cheek patches being small and very indistinct: upper tail coverts dull red, beak black, legs and feet grey.

Within a week of leaving the nest, their beak began to change, the orange cheek patches became brighter, and the rump and tail coverts a brighter red; now (October), though it is only just over six weeks since they left the nest, they can scarcely be told from the adults; they have assumed practically the full brilliance of their parents, though their beaks as yet are not so pure a red and their tails are a little shorter. They have not yet moulted, so that this change has been gradually developed in the plumage, without the shedding of a feather up to the present.

It may interest members to know, that in the one large aviary, the following have all reared young this season, some of them more than one brood. Orange-cheeked and Orange-breasted Waxbills; Guttural and Aurora Finches, Grey Finches (*S. grisea*), Zebra Finches, Cutthroats, Grey-winged Ouzels, Olive Finches, Californian Quail, Magpie Mannikins, and Green Singingfinches—there may be others, but till the leaves fall the full number of young will not be ascertainable. I will anticipate and say here that none of the young are for sale, all are being retained for observation purposes, for some months yet.

Editorial.

A RETROSPECT: This issue brings us to the close of another volume of our Club Journal, and while realising that there is ample room for improvement, yet we think all will agree that it is equal to its predecessors.

The present volume contains four coloured plates and a coloured plan, viz., "Black and Blue, and Viellot's" Tanagers, "Jerdon's Green Fruitsucker," "Malabar, and Gold-fronted Green Fruitsuckers," and "Red-billed Blue-Pie," while our half-tone and line illustrations have left nothing to be desired, either as to number, or the practical and interesting features they have depicted. We have again been indebted to H. Willford, Esq., for some of his beautiful photos of bird-life in their native haunts, and to many others for photos of interesting aviary episodes, and we tender to one and all our grateful thanks.

The text matter in our pages, has been varied and also of practical and scientific interest, and we feel assured that both the aviculturist and ornithologist will have found interesting reading therein—the tyro has not been neglected, for popular species have been dealt with in popular language even more than in past years. To all our contributors we tender grateful thanks.

The interest in the competition for Breeding Medals has been more than sustained and the number awarded (19) is in excess of last year, and though a partial list has been recently given, we feel, that a full list must appear here.

Species:—

Palm Tanager (*Tanagra p, melanoptera*)—Lady Edith D. Pennant.

Pope Cardinal (*Paroaria larvata*)—Lady Edith D. Pennant.

Grenadier Weaver (*Euplectes oryx*)—R. S. de Quincey Quincey.

Napoleon Weaver (*Pyromelana afra*)—Lady Poltimore.

Black-headed Weaver (*Hyphantornis melanocephala*) Lady Poltimore.

Hooded Siskin (*Chrysomitris cucullatus*)—Dr. M. Amsler.

Scarlet Tanager (*Rhamphocœlus brasilus*)—Dr. J. Easton Scott.

Black-headed Mannikin (*Munia atricapilla*)—Dr. J. Easton Scott.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*)—W. E. Teschemaker.

Rock Pipit (*Anthus obscurus*)—W. E. Teschemaker).

Grey Grosbeak (*Spermophila grisea*)—Wesley T. Page.

Guttural Finch (*Spermophila gutturalis*)—Wesley T. Page.

Queen Alexandra Parrakeet (*Spathopterus alexandræ*)—Hubert D. Astley.

Hooded Parrakeet (*Psephotus cucullatus*)—Hubert D. Astley.

Red-sided Eclectus (*Eclectus pectoralis*)—Miss M. Drummond.

Hybrids:—

Swainson's Lorikeet + Chattering Lory—Mrs. E. A. Hartley.

Squamata + Californian Quail—W. Shore Baily.

Red-collared + Black-throated Lorikeet—R. Pauvvels.

Grey-winged Ouzel + Argentine Blackbird—R. Suggitt.

In addition to the above Mr. Rattigan has bred a hybrid Grey-headed + Cape Sparrow, which we think will entitle him to a medal, but this has yet to be ascertained

While on this topic we would urge the systematic keeping of notes: We know broods and eggs cannot be risked by too close scrutiny, yet we feel that by a little closer and more careful observation, much valuable data, that has been lost during the present and past seasons, might have added to the value of the club Journal. We urge members to keep their birds under as close observation, and to take such notes of all interesting episodes, as time and circumstances permit. Some of the articles recording the above success have yet to appear.

THE EXHIBITIONAL SECTION: If not exactly progressive has been fully maintained—lists of medal winners duly appear, in connection with the various show reports, and cannot be given complete till the end of the season 1912-13. We would remind members that any extension of classification can only become permanent by their giving it full support, and we press this point upon their attention.

OUR PROGRESS: Is still steady, though not so rapid as we would wish, yet annually our numbers increase; this year, so far as is apparent at the moment, there will be a net gain of 25.

We are glad to state that all the officers who have so ably assisted us during the past year, will, with one exception, again do duty during 1913. Mr. H. Willford retires as Hon. Bus. Secretary and Treasurer, but remains on the Council; Mr. S. Williams, as already announced, succeeds him as Hon. Bus. Secretary and Treasurer.

We congratulate our members on a successful year's work.

SPARROW HYBRIDS: Mr. G. E. Rattigan has successfully reared a young hybrid between the Grey-headed Sparrow (*Passer diffusus*) and Cape Sparrow (*P. arcuatus*), which is now in adult plumage. If any member knows of any instance of the above cross having been previously reared, will they please send details *at once*.

NESTING RESULTS: These are not yet entirely over for the year, as Miss M. E. Baker has a pair of Lineolated Parrakeets engaged in the duties of incubation. This species has not, we think, been previously bred in captivity, and we hope Miss Baker may meet with success.

Obituary: We regret to have to announce the decease of the following members, both of whom have been on the roll for 10 years:—

Miss E. L. Jardine (December, 1902).
Mr. T. Newbold (December, 1902).

Correspondence.

THE EUROPEAN BEE-EATER.

Sir,—You were kind enough to ask for further particulars of Lady Kathleen Pilkington's Bee-Eater.

I am glad to say that up to the present we have been most successful with it. After feeding it with mealworms, wasp grubs and gentles on a quill for some days it learned to pick up food for itself and *can* do so quite well, if left alone, but much prefers to be fed by hand. If you are near, it will sit with its food only a few inches away without making the slightest effort to pick it up for itself, yet whistling hungrily to you all the time to come and feed it. It is the most helpless bird I ever saw. If you are feeding it and it drops a mealworm, it will not make any attempt to pick it up. As a pet it is most attractive, as it so perfectly tame and confiding; in fact, it looks to you for all its wants, but it could not be recommended to anyone who had not plenty of time to devote to it. Of course I do not know if it would behave differently in an aviary.

It always greets you with a pleased whistle and looks for dainties. As far as I know it never takes a bath and no one has ever seen it drink here.

It likes to fly backwards and forwards in its large cage, but is very awkward about perching, frequently missing its perch, and fluttering on to another.

It has done well on gentles, mealworms, and soft food pellets, and wasp grubs; it is particularly fond of the latter and now that they are unluckily over, we are going to try it with raw meat.

It is in very good plumage, and is a beautiful and most attractive bird. It is a great favourite with the whole family, owing to its helplessness, and great tameness. If you offer it a mealworm in your fingers it generally takes your finger instead, as it does not seem able to focus the mealworm.

November 2, 1912. AUGUSTE BRUCE.

British Bird Calendar.

[We hope members from other districts will send in notes.—Ed.]

It is urgently requested that other members, all round the coast, will note the movements of birds, more especially so from the Southern and Eastern Counties, and regularly (28th of each month) send in their notes—*on this the ultimate success and permanent interest of the Calendar will depend.*—Ed.

October 30th.—A live Gannet was brought to me, which had been picked up in an exhausted condition in a meadow at Minstead, Hants. It was still in immature plumage, tail black except the two central feathers, which were white and the back speckled with black feathers. To my great disappointment it died in spite of every attention, but it had been kept for two days after capture before being brought to me and would not feed. I have not heard of this species being previously taken here, but Gulls and Auks often occur after storms. E.F.C., Lyndhurst, Hants.

While out shooting last week, a Piebald French Partridge was included in my bag. I am having it set up and will give description later. J.S.R., Lincoln, Nov. 24, '12.

During the first week in November, small parties of Larks, various Thrushes and Snow Buntings have arrived.

November 7. 14 Swans passed along the shore in a southerly direction. I did not see them but can rely upon the evidence of at lease one who actually saw them.

November 12. Saw a flock of quite 200 Snow Buntings and many Knots, Sanderlings, and Grey Plover. During the latter part of the month the wind has been S.W. and very little movement has taken place here.

R. S. Cleethorpes, November 28th, 1912.

Now that the trees and shrubs are all but leafless, the birds of our gardens are more easily discerned. During the week ending November 30th, four species of Tits have been foraging in my garden, three of the species—Blue, Great and Cole nest here, but the Long-tailed is a straggler from the Common and Woods some quarter mile away. One notes at this period of the year, their incessant foraging, even more in evidence than when rearing a brood—and how thoroughly they go about it, truly their meals are well earned! W.T.P., Mitcham, Surrey.

The L.C.B.A. Show.

BY WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S., etc.

To my regret I was unable to attend the great Show at the Horticultural Hall, and to miss seeing the many rare and beautiful birds, gathered together from far and near, also to miss meeting many avicultural friends and acquiantances, whom one seldom meets, save at such functions.

As I glance through the Catalogue at the list of birds, first appearances appear to be quite numerous, yet though new to the show bench, none are rearly new to aviculture and most of them have been described more than once in our pages, but before I go further I must state that I am writing of the birds as species and not of the individuals exhibited, as these I have not seen.*

MR. MAXWELL'S PEALE'S PARROT FINCH (*Erythrura pealei*), very similar to the Common Parrot Finch, but has a blue throat, it first appeared at the Zoo in 1911 ; very few specimens have reached private hands. This species has reared young in the Summer Avairies at the Zoo, this year.

Mr. A. Ezra's ABYSSINIAN LOVE-BIRD (*Agapornis taranta*). I do not think more than one pair of this species has reached England alive, and this pair passed into Mr. H. D. Astley' s possession who came very near to breeding them, but the cock died, and I opine the bird exhibited is the surviving female of this pair. They are about the size of a Peach-faced Love-bird or a little smaller, with the body colouring a deep shining grass green, dark brown flights, rich crimson beak and plumbeous legs and feet, the male has a cap of the richest crimson.

Mr. Maxwell's PURPLE-CAPPED, or Porphyry-crowned Lorikeet *(Glossopsittacus porphyrocephalus)*. Two pairs of this species were imported in 1910 by Mr. Wallace, one pair of which passed into Mr. Millsum's hands being transferred later to Mons. Pauvvels, but unfortunately they did not live long at Everberg. It is a South Australian species, not unlike the beautiful Varied Lorikeet, but much rarer. A sketchy description is as follows :—Forehead, lores and ear-coverts yellow, slightly splashed with scarlet, crown purple, the general colouring being various shades of green (see B.N. Vol. I, N.S.)

Mr. G. H. Raynor's AUBRY'S PARROT (*Poeocephalus'au-*

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*A member writes "The array of Foreigners was truly marvellous," *bryanus*) very rare, but well known to visitors to the London Zoo and opine that Mr. Raynor's bird is the only specimen in private hands (see B.N., Sept. issue current vol.) The same gentleman's Everitt's and Meyer's Parrots are both rare, but have frequently been described in our pages.

Mr. L. W. Hawkin's BLUE-RUMPED PARROTS (*Psittinus incertus*). This pair which were last seen in Feb. at the Crystal Palace Show, have since donned full adult plumage, and their beauty is now fully apparent. A coloured plate is in course of preparation and will appear in our next volume. It is a difficult species to establish (See Oct. issue p. 287).

Mr. Ezra's CHILIAN OR BLACK SISKIN (*Chrysomitris uropygialis*). This species is new to Aviculture this year, a small number (6) arrived at the Zoo in June last and Mr. Ezra's specimen is, I presume, one of these. Its sombre plumage, except for a little yellow on the wing and under surface, is entirely glossy black, reminding one of a Combasou at the first glance.

BLACK-FACED WAXBILLS (*Estrilda erythronota*). Of this beautiful and uncommon species there were several exhibits, but these have been already noted in "B.N." also a coloured drawing by Mr. Goodchild awaits reproduction and fuller notes must be reserved till then.

Mr. H. D. Astley's Blue Niltava (*Niltava cyanomelœna*), is new to aviculture this year, and is a native of China and Japan. It is a counterpart of the well known Rufous-bellied Niltava in all but colour—head and back turquoise blue, wings and tail darker, sides of face, throat and chest black, remainder of underparts white, washed with grey on the flanks. A beautiful bird and a sweet songster. Mr. Astley's bird is the only one known to have reached England alive at present. The same gentleman's Indian Brown-backed Robins (*Thamnobia cambaiensis*) are also a very rare and interesting species. They are plainly clad in black with brown back and white wing-bars. The hen is a uniform brown with a patch of rufous under the tail. They have all the attractive characteristics of the Robin-tribe.

Other rare or uncommon species were :
Vinaceous Firefinch (*Lagonosticta vinace*) .
Golden-backed Whydah (*Penthetriopsis macrura*).
Black-legged Blue Sugarbird (*Dacnis nigripes*).

Red and Black Tanager (*Pyranga erythromelas ?*)*
Coppersmith Barbet (*Xantholæma hæmatocephala*).

There were many other beautiful and uncommon birds such as Violet-eared and Blue-breasted Waxbills, Rainbow Buntings, Hunting Cissa, Loo-Choo Robins, Japanese Redbreasts, Ruby-throated Warbler, Short-billed Minivet, and Fire-tailed Finches, but all have been noted many times in our pages.

Mr. D. Seth-Smith judged, and the awards in the respective classes are as follows :—

BUDGERIGARS, LOVEBIRDS, ETC. (5).—1, A. Ezra, Abyssinian Lovebird (♀), very rare, new to the show bench but not to aviculture; 2, C. T. Maxwell, Black-faced Lovebirds; 3, Miss Dolby, Red-faced Lovebird; 4, W. Edmunds, Budgerigars.

ALL SPECIES PARRAKEETS (18).—1, C. T. Maxwell, Purple-capped Lorikeet, very rare and beautiful; 2 and 4, Miss L. Clare, Queen Alexandra Parrakeet, very rich colour and perfect condition, and a very good Turquoisine, still showing a few pen feathers; 3, Fletcher, Barraband's Parrakeet; v.h.c., W. Edmunds, Many-coloured Parrakeet; h.c., Miss Bousfield, Red-rump Parrakeets; c., Wade, Crimson-wing Parrakeet. Also exhibited a pair of Queen Alexandra Parrakeets. Rosella, Lutino Ring-neck, Masked, Blossom-headed Yellow-rumped, Bauer's, Barnard's Parrakeets, and an uncommon Red-headed Conure.

PARROTS, LORIES, ETC. (8).—1, L. W. Hawkins, Blue-rumped Parrakeets; 2, Maxwell, Black Cockatoo; 3, 4, and v.h.c., Rev. G. H. Raynor, Meyer's, Everett's and Aubry's Parrots in the order given, a unique team; h.c., S. Williams' Ducorp's Cockatoo; c., J. M. Kenworthy, Senegal Parrot. A good talking Grey also competed.

CERTAIN NAMED SPECIES (25).—1, 3, v.h.c. and h.c., R. Watts, Green Avadavats, Indian Silverbills, Cordon Bleus and Gold-breasted Waxbills, in the order given; 2, F. Howe, Gold-breasted Waxbills; 4, Dr. G. B. Thwaites, Cordon Bleus; c., C. T. Maxwell, Cordon Bleus. Also exhibited: St. Helena Waxbills, White Java Sparrows, Zebra Finches, Bengalese, Combasous, Spice Birds, Ribbon Finches, Black-headed and Tricolour Mannikins, Zebra and South African Waxbills.

A.S. WEAVERS (6).—1, 2, 3, and 4, S. Williams, Crimson-crowned, Red-headed, Black-headed and Kaffir Weavers, a beautiful quartet. Madagascar and Yellow Weavers were also staged.

A.S. WAXBILLS, ETC. (9).—1, Miss L. Clare, Violet-eared Waxbills; 2, 4, and v.h.c., C. T. Maxwell, Violet-eared and Blue-breasted Waxbills, and Melba Finches in the order given; 3, S. Beaty, Black-faced Waxbill; h.c., R. Watts, Black-faced Waxbills; c., A. Ezra, Vinaceous Firefinches, a grand pair. Also exhibited: a brilliant Crimson Finch.

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*Queried, as I did not see the bird.

Grassfinches, Whydahs, etc. (14).—1, S. Beaty, beautiful Golden-backed Whydah, a rare exhibit; 2, C. H. Row, Fire-tailed, Finches, uncommon and beautiful; 3, and 4, C. T. Maxwell, Tri-coloured and Peale's Parrot Finches, the latter a first appearance; v.h.c., Miss Bousfield, B.H. Gouldian Finch; h.c., Miss Smyth, Long-tailed Grassfinches; c., L. W. Hawkins, R.H. Gouldian Finch. Also competed: Diamond and Ruficauda Finches, and a Pin-tailed Whydah.

Grosbeaks, True Finches, etc. (14).—1 and 3, A. Ezra, Chilian Siskin and Sepoy Finch, both new to the bench this season, but not to aviculture; 2, L. W. Hawkins, Rainbow Bunting, a gem; 4, and h.c., C. T. Maxwell, Rainbow Bunting and Cuba Finches; v.h.c., Mrs. Greene, Black-headed Siskin; c., J. Frostick, Japanese Hawfinch. Green Singing Finches, Hooded Siskin, Quail and Olive Finches were also staged.

Named Tanagers (6).—1, S. M. Townsend, Tri-colour; 2, J. Frostick, pair Tri-colours; 3, Mrs. Thynne, yet another Tri-colour; 4, Andrews Bros., Superb; v.h.c., Dr. G. B. Thwaites, Tri-colour. Only Superb and Tri-colours entered.

A.O. Tanagers (11).—1, and 4, C. T. Maxwell, Red and Black, and pair of Necklace Tanagers; 2 and v.h.c., Lady Kathleen Pilkington, Festive and Black-backed; 3, A Ezra, pair Black-backed; h.c., Mrs. Thynne, Maroon; c., S. M. Townsend, Yellow Tanager. Blue and Black, Pectoral, and White-capped Tanagers also competed.

Sugar-birds, etc. (9).—1, A. Ezra, exquisite Amethyst-rumped Sunbird; 2, v.h.c., and c., C. T. Maxwell, Purple Sugar-birds, Banana Quitt (Black and Yellow Creeper), and Amethyst-rumped Sunbird; 3, S. M. Townsend, Black-legged Blue Sugar-bird; 4, Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Purple Sugar-bird; h.c., L. W. Hawkins, Black-headed Sugar-bird. A Purple Sunbird was also staged by Mr. L. W. Hawkins.

Pekin Robin, Shama, etc. (9).—1, J. Frostick, Shama (♀); 2, Miss Smyth, pair Pekin Robins; 3, and c., O Puck, Shama and Dhayal Bird; 4, Everett, Greater Hill Mynah; v.h.c., Miss Smyth, Red-eared Bulbul; h.c., D. Gollan.

A.O.S. (10).—1 and c., H. D. Astley, Blue Niltava, and Indian Brown-backed Robins, both unique and first appearances; 2, and v.h.c., Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Short-billed Minivet, yet another first appearance, and Loo-Choo Robin; 3 and h.c., A. Ezra, Japanese Redbreast and Loo-Choo Robin; 4, C. T. Maxwell, Coppersmith Barbet, another rarity. Other species exhibited were: Ruby-throated Warbler, and an Indian Hunting Cissa.

Pairs for Hybrid Breeding (4).—C. H. Row, Fire-tailed and Ruficauda Finches; 2, C. T. Maxwell, Sydney and Violet-eared Waxbills; 3, Wade, Russian Goldfinch, and Rosefinch. Tri-colour and Petre's Tanagers also competed.

Selling (10).— 1 F. Howe, Yellow-rumped Finch; 2 and h.c., R. Watts, Diamond Sparrow and Cordon Bleu; 3 and 4, C. T. Maxwell; Yellow Budgerigars and Cordon Bleu; v.h.c., H.S. Davies, Nonpareil Bunting.

The above awards have been compiled from a catalogue, kindly sent me by a friend, and of course, not having seen the exhibits, comment or criticism has not been possible. The writer much regrets a fuller and more detailed report has not been possible, but, as it is, the successes of the beautiful series of birds owned by our members, are permanently recorded in our Journal. Specials and Club Medals, etc., will be given in our next issue.

Post Mortem Reports

Vide Rules.

For replies by post, a fee of 2s. 6d. must be sent; this rule will not be broken under any condition.

Post-Mortem Reports can only appear in next issue when bodies are received by Mr. Gray prior to the 31st. of any month

It would greatly help to elucidate contagious diseases in birds if members of the F.B.C. in sending me dead birds, were to state the source from which they obtained the birds and when. The names of the sellers would be kept a secret.

SYDNEY WAXBILL (♀). (William Bainbridge, Surrey). Cause of death, pneumonia. Intermittently warming a greenhouse is prejudicial to the health of birds confined in such a place. The ST. HELENA WAXBILL had amyloid degeneration of the liver, which is liable to break up under such conditions and give rise to hæmorrhage.

A. LOWE (Notts.). As you have not complied with the rules I refuse to give the result of post mortem examination.

PEKIN ROBIN (♂). (John Dobbie, Leith, N.B.). The cause of death, as you suggest, pneumonia, but there was also inflammation of the bowels. My experience is that Pekin Robins are comparatively hardy birds, and providing they are suitably sheltered, they can fairly withstand our trying climate.

OLIVE FINCH (♂). (Capt. J. S. Reeve, Lincoln). There was an injury to the skull, which showed some blood extravasation.

YOUNG COCKATEEL. (E. M. Chaplin, Herts). The cause of death was enteritis.

GOLDEN-FRONTED FRUITSUCKER. Miss Augusta Bruce, Berkeley Sq., W.) The liver was enlarged, and contained scattered about its substance innumerable yellowish points, resembling in appearance fig-seeds. The spleen was swollen to several times its normal size. The disease was no doubt bird-fever, probably introduced by a freshly purchased bird some time ago. Protracted moulting is a sign of ill-health, and may be seen in several infections or infestations.

RED CRESTED CARDINAL. (J. W. Allan, Bondgate, Alnwick). Cause of death, acute pneumonia. Catching cold during transit to and from or at a show accounts for the death of many birds.

COCKATEEL. (Mrs. W. H. Read, 215, Chesterton Road, Cambridge). Cause of death, enteritis.

PARROT FINCH. (Miss Drummond, Mains of Megginch, Errol, N.B.) The cause of death was pneumonia.

GOULDIAN FINCH. (T. Hebb, Luton). Cause of death, pneumonia. There was a general staining of the body with bile. The beak was affected with scabies due to a mite termed *Sarcoptes mutans,* which commonly causes scaly leg in poultry, pheasants, and other gallinaceae, and scaly bill or beak in cage birds, especially the Gouldian Finch.

CUTTHROAT (♂). (W. A. Bainbridge, Thorpe, Surrey). Cause of death, pneumonia.

TWO BUDGERIGARS. (F. W. Bull, Sutton, Surrey). Cause of death, pneumonia.

(The Hon. Mary C. Hawke, Tadcaster). All three of the birds died from the effects of pneumonia. The Stonechat also had enteritis. I do not keep any Green Cardinals now; my last died from a fungous disease of the air-sacs, due to the *Aspergillus fumigatus.* This disease attacks every class of poultry and pheasants and not rarely aviary and cage-birds, the Green Cardinal in particular.

LAVENDER FINCH. (M. J. Flannery, Nenagh). Cause of death, enteritis.

JAVA SPARROW. (Miss D. E. Pithie, Lymington, Hants). Cause of death, enteritis.

ALPINE CHOUGH, (H. N. Snarey, Ansdell). Cause of death, pericarditis.

BLUE-RUMPED PARROT (♂) (*Psittinus incertus*). (Rev. Canon Dutton Fairford). There was a caseous nodule in the right lung which was of some standing. I did not ascertain the nature of the lesion. It did not contain the *Aspergillus fumigatus,* the fungus commonly causing similar lesions to that in your bird.

TWO COCK NONPAREIL BUNTINGS. (Geo. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, enteritis, which was accompanied by diarrhæa.

Answered by Post.—Rev. Canon Dutton, The Hon. Mrs. Bourke, Mrs. Turner-Turner, The Hon. Mary C. Hawke.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Re L.C.B.A. Show.

Several letters, a talk with Mr. F. Finn, and an annoted catalogue from our Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treasurer, enable me to make the following corrections and additions, at the moment of going to press.

CHILIAN SISKIN: In report I give the name (*C. uropygialis*) from the Zoo list, but though I have had no opportunity for close comparision I believe it to be *C. atrata*, as given in our report of Clapham Show.

Red and Black Tanager. This is *Phlogolthraupis cruentata*, is a bird as large as a starling—sketchily; top of head, breast and ventral region shining red, remainder of plumage glossy black.

Blue Niltava. Mr. Finn tells me that the better name for this species is Japanese Blue Flycatcher (*Xanthopygia cyanomelæna*).

I also failed to note Ducorp's Cockatoo as a first appearance and the Rev. G. H. Raynor informs me that the bird catalogued as a "rare Rosella," is the rare *Pyerhulopsis personata*, and that it failed to catch the judge's eye.

While too late to correct or add the above to the report, I am much indebted to the respective correspondents, who have enabled me to add these notes in the issue in which the report appears.

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J. H. Henstock, Typ., "Avian Press," Ashbourne.

JANUARY, 1912.

The Foreign Bird Club.

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Roll of Members.

HONORARY MEMBER.

Fillmer, H. R. (*Founder*), Brendon, 22 Harrington Road, Brighton.

Alderson, Miss R., Park House, Worksop, Notts. (March, 1909).
Allan, J. W., Bondgate, Alnwick. (April 1911).
Allott, Miss, The Firs, Louth, Lincolnshire. (April, 1911).
Almond, The Rev. F., Branxholme House, Lincoln Road, Peterborough. (Feb., 1906).
Amsler, Dr. Maurice, High Street, Eton, Windsor. (March, 1909).
Andrews, F. J., Gordon House, Woodbridge, Sussex. (Dec., 1911).
Anningson, Mrs. Walt-ham-sal, Barton Road, Cambridge. (Dec., 1901).
Appleby, K. A., Post Office of India, Arrisitar, Punjab, India. (Oct., 1910).
Armstein, Mark, 30, Grand Parade, Cork. (March, 1906).
Arrighi, L. J., Harrison View, Watson Crescent, Edinburgh, N.B. (March, 1908).
Astley, H. D., M.A., F.Z.S., M.B:O:U:, Benham Valence, Speen, Newbury, Berks. (Dec., 1909).
Attwell, Harold E., Cassia Grove, Halfway Tree, P.O., Kingston, Jamaica, B.W.I. (March, 1910).
Austin, W. E., Wandsworth Public Libraries, Allfarthing Lane, Wandsworth, London, S.W. (April, 1909).

Baily, W. Shore, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts. (June, 1909).
Baker Miss M. E., Granite House, Mount Sorrel, Loughborough. (Sept., 1902).
Bamford, Wm., The Coppice, Werneth, Oldham. (June, 1901).
Bampfylde, The Hon. Mrs., Court Hall, North Molton, North Devon. (July, 1911).
Barlow-Massicks, Mrs. C., The Mount, Rotherham. (Nov., 1911).
Barros, Americo de, 39 Richmond Grove, Manchester, W. (Nov., 1911).
Baxby, William, Coal Aston, Dronfield, Sheffield. (June, 1910).
Beaty, S., Strathnarn, Elm Grove, Alderley Edge, Cheshire. (March, 1908).
Beazor, Rev. J. T. A. Lovell, 60 Upgate, Louth, Lincs. (April, 1911).

Beebe, C. W., Curator of Ornithology, New York Zoological Park, New York City, U.S.A. (July, 1911).

Bentley, David, 80 St. Hubert's Street, Great Harwood, Lancs. (Feb., 1911).

Bliss, H. E., c./o. T. Estcourt, Rosemead, Cape Colony, S. Africa. (Jan., 1903).

Boscawen, The Hon. Vere D., 2, St. James' Square, London, S.W. (January, 1911).

Bonnick, Mrs., Belmont, East Hoathly, Sussex (Nov., 1911).

Botting, H., Mountside, Harrow Road, Dorking. (Dec., 1908).

Bourke, Hon. Gwendolen, Hitcham Vale, Taplow, and 75 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London, W. (Dec., 1909).

Bousfield, Miss M., Avon Court, Southbourne Road, Bournmouth. (Jan., 1908).

Boyd, Harold, Box 374, Kelowna, Brit. Columbia. (April, 1903).

Bright, R. E., Sunnybank, Coggeshall, Essex. (March, 1910).

Bright, Herbert, Lynton, Eaton Road, Cressington Park, Near Liverpool. (Oct., 1911).

Bromwich, Miss Vera., 12, Hill Street, Rutland Gate, London, S.W. (Dec., 1911).

Brook, E. J., F.Z.S., Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan, N.B. (March, 1908).

Brotherston, G. W., 23, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh. (August, 1909).

Brown, Mrs. C., Seton Lodge, Becon Road, Henleaze, Bristol. (May, 1910).

Browning, W. H., 16, Cooper Square, New York, U.S.A. (February, 1910).

Bruce, Miss A., 42, Hill Street, Berkeley Square, London, W. (Mar., 1909).

Bush, W., The Art Schools, Dock Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Butler, Vincent E., Ingomar, Chepstow Road, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Caldwell, Miss Joan, The Old Manse, Inverkeithing, N.B. (Jan., 1911).

Camps, H. T. T., F.Z.S., Linden House, Haddenham, Isle of Ely. (Orig. Mem.)

Capern, F., Avenue House, Cotham Park, Bristol. (October, 1907).

Cartwright, Mrs. E., Bretton Lodge, Wakefield. January, 1912).

Castle-Sloane, C., F.Z.S., Oat Hall, near Crawley, Sussex. (November, 1902).

Cecil, Lord William, 23, Queen's Gate, London, S.W. (November, 1909).

Chaplin, E. W., The Firs, Great Amwell, Herts. (September, 1903).

Chawner, Miss E. F., Forest Bank, Lyndhurst, Hants. (July, 1910).

Cheetham, J., The Hawthorns, Brighouse, Yorks. (October, 1908).

Clare, Miss Lydia, The Hollies, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W. (March, 1910).

Clarke, S., Inces, Scaynes Hill, Hayward's Heath. (August, 1911).

Clarke, Leigh, Tower Hirst, Stoke Bishop, Bristol (Feb., 1911).
Clifton, Lord, Cobham Hall, Gravesend. (October, 1905).
Cochrane, Thos., Linden Lea, St. Boswells, N.B. (August, 1909).
Conway-Gordon, Miss V., Longley House, Rochester. (October, 1906).
Cook, W., 24, Hyde Park Gardens, London, W. (March, 1909).
Corbet, Sir R. J., Bt., Acton Reynald, Shrewsbury. (April, 1911).
Crisp, R. L., 58 Elm Park Road, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Feb., 1909).
Croker, Chas. E., Burrow Inche, Lower Bourne, Farnham (Oct., 1911).
Cronkshaw, J., 193, Manchester Street, Accrington. (November, 1901).
Croysdale, Mrs. B., Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames. (Jan., 1908).
Cullen, J. W., St. Nicholas Works, St. Nicholas Square, Leicester. (Nov., 1908).
Cushny, Charles, c./o. Messrs. Neish, Howell and Haldane, 47, Watling Street, Queen Victoria Street, E.C. (Orig. Mem.)
Darrell. Dr. H. W., Adelaide House, All Saints Green, Norwich. (Sept., 1908).
Davidson, Mrs. Yew Tree Cottage, Bitterne, Southampton. (April, 1911).
Dean, H. S., The Limes, Clifton Street, Wolverhampton. (March, 1911).
DeFreitas, E. W., Woodlands, Grenada, B.W.I. (April, 1910).
Dennis, Mrs. Harold, St. Leonard's Park, Horsham, Sussex. (Jan., 1904).
Dewar, D., Fyzabad, U.P., India. (June, 1907).
Dewar, J. F., 2, St. Patrick's Square, Edinburgh. (Orig. Mem.)
DeYardburgh-Bateson, The Hon. Lilla, Heslington, York. (June, 1903).
Dobbie, J., Waverley Works, Leith, N.B. (April, 1906).
Doherty, Mrs. B., Vernon House, Weston, Bath. (October, 1909).
Drummond, Miss, Mains of Megginch, Errol, N.B. (Nov., 1907).
Dunleath, The Lady, Ballywalter Park, Ballywalter, co. Down. (Nov., 1901).
Dutton, The Hon. and Rev. Canon, Bibury Vicarage, Fairford, Glos. (May, 1906).

Ebrill, Wm., 14, Victoria Terrace, Limerick, (April, 1906).
Eccles, Miss A. S., The Glade, Ditton Hill, Surrey. (Jan., 1912).
Edmunds, W., Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Dorset. (Nov., 1909).
Elms, E. F. M., Rosebank Cottage, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey, (June, 1910).
Ezra, A., 110, Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, W. (Jan. 1911).

Fasey, William R., The Oaks, Holly Bush Hill, Snaresbrook. (Jan., 1903).

Faux, E. R., Colmer, Cator Road, Sydenham, London, S. E. (Oct., 1911).

Fisher. W. H. The Bush Hotel, Farnham, Surrey. (May, 1908).

Fisher-Rowe, H. M., St. Leonard's Grange, Beaulieu, Hants, (Jan., 1911).

Flannery, M. J., Barrack Street, Nenagh, co. Tipperary, Ireland. (Jan., 1909).

Fletcher, Geo., 19 Peveral Road, Sheffield. (April, 1911).

Flower, Capt., S. S., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Keedah House, Zoological Gardens, Giza, Egypt. (March, 1909).

Flower, Mrs. Stanley, Longfield, Tring, Herts. (July, 1910).

Ford, J., 258 Welford Road, Leicester. (March, 1911).

Foster, Miss E. M., 35, High Street, Huntingdon. (Jan., 1909).

Foster William Hill, 164, Portland Street, Southport. (Nov., 1901).

Frostick, J., 137 Endlesham Road, Balham, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

Galloway, Mrs. E., Fernville, Fortis Green Road, East Finchley, London, N. (Jan., 1908).

Galloway, P., F. M., Durban, St. Peter's Avenue, Caversham, Reading. (Nov., 1907).

Gerrard John, M.B.O.U., Worsley, Manchester. (June, 1905).

Gillies, F. A., Thornley Park House, Thornley Park, Paisley. N.B. (July, 1911).

Godry, Edouard, LeCôteau, Lanthevil par Creully (Calvados), France. (Jan., 1912).

Goodchild, H., M.B.O.U., 66, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park, N.W. (July, 1903).

Goodfellow, W., "Mont Fleuri," Southbourne Grove, Bournemouth. (October, 1908).

Gorringe, The Rev. Reginald, Manston Rectory, Sturminter Newton, Dorset. (Dec., 1902).

Gosse, Dr. Philip, Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Nr. Brockenhurst, Hants. (April, 1910).

Gourlay, H., Kempshott Park, Basingstoke. (November, 1907).

Graham, John, Rainbow Hotel, Kendal (February, 1911).

Gray, H. M.R.C.V.S. (*Hon. Veterinary Surgeon*), 23, Upper Phillimore Place, London, W. (May, 1906).

Greeven, Miss M., 29 Queensborough Terrace, Hyde Park, London, W. (October, 1907).

Grove H. M., The National and Provincial Bank, High Street, Newport, Mon. (May, 1909).

Hadden, Miss Nellie, Hotel des Bains, Helivan, Egypt. (October, 1910.

Haggie G. E., Magdalen College, Oxford. (February, 1910).

Hahn, Countess C. V., 192, Walpole Road, Wimbledon, Surrey. (Aug., 1910).

Hall, Miss A. F., 2 Park Place Villas, Paddington, London, W., and Denholme, Hayling Island. (Sept., 1911).

Hall, Chilton B., Pedrogosa and Laguna, North West Corner, Santa Barbara, California, U.S.A. (April, 1911).

Hansell Frank, Bank House, Granton Road, Edinburgh. (Nov., 1911).

Harper., E. W., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Government Road, Nairobi; Brit: E. Africa. (Oct., 1907).

Harris, Chas., 114, Bethnal Green Road, London, E. (April, 1910).

Harrison, J. H., Ellerslie, East Beach, Lytham, Lancs. (Dec., 1901).

Hartley, Mrs., F. A, St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings. (Sept, 1907).

Harvey, Lady, Langley Park, Slough. (June, 1908).

Hatchell, D. G., Grosvenor Club, Piccadilly, London, W. (Dec. 1911).

Hawke, The Hon. M. C., Wighill Park, Tadcaster. (Nov., 1902).

Hawkins, L. W. Estrilda, New Clive Road, West Dulwich. (Orig. Member).

Henderson, Mrs. W. F., Moorfield, Upper Claremont, Newcastle--on-Tyne. (Nov., 1908).

Henstock, J. H., Market Place, Ashbourne, Derby. (March, 1907).

Hetley, Dr. Henry, Beaufort House, 114, Church Road, Norwood, S.E.. (Jan., 1908).

Hewitt, F. W. G., The Old Hall, Weelsby, near Grimsby, Lincs. (April, 1909).

Higginbotham, Mrs. J., Hyde House, Crescent Rise, Luton, Beds. (July, 1909)..

Hincks, Miss E. M., Baron's Down, Dulverton. (Dec., 1904).

Hodgkin, Mrs., Sedburgh House, Kew Green, Surrey. (Feb., 1908.)

Holden, Ralph, A., F.Z.S., 5 John Street, Bedford Row, London.; W.C., and Harpenden, Herts. (July, 1911).

Hollins, Miss, Greyfriars, Preston, Lancashire. (Feb., 1906).

Hollins, B., 9, George Street, Hull. (May, 1903).

Holmes, Thomas, 46, Aglionby Street, Carlisle. (Jan., 1911).

Hopkinson, Emilius, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., Oxon., Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa. (Oct., 1901).

Horsbrugh, Major, B. R., Morriston Biller, Newbridge, co. Kildare. (Oct., 1909).

Horton, L. W., Hill House, Compton, Wolverhampton. (Sept., 1902).

Houlton, Charles, Laburnum House, Denton's Green, St. Helen's, Lancs. (Nov., 1901).

Howe, Frank, 54, Thomas Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. (Feb., 1902).

Hubbard, Mrs. D. L., Casa Sta. Monica, Bordighera, Italy. (Jan., 1905).

Hume, James, Hepscott, Morpeth. (June, 1903).

Humphrys, Russell, Bryn Court, Woldingham, Surrey. (July, 1902).

Huxley, A., J., 57, Bradford Street, Walsall. (May, 1908).

Isaac, Chas., Somerton, Bath Road, Slough. (March, 1911).

Jack, Mrs. Francis, Springmead, Sidcup, Kent. (Jan., 1911).

Jamrach A. E., 180, St. George's Street, London, E. (July, 1909).

Jardine, Miss E. L., St. Michael's Home, Kimberley, South Africa. (Dec., 1902).

Jeffrey, H. G., 75, Pyle Street, Newport, I.O.W. (Dec.; 1909).

Johnson, Miss L. Sturton, Orotava House, Ore, Nr. Hastings. (Sept., 1910).

Johnson, H. V., 18, Chambres Road, Southport. (Nov., 1908).

Kennedy, Lt. G., c./o. Mrs. Kennedy, 7, Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey. (May, 1908).

Kenworthy, J. M., Meadowcroft, Windermere. (June, 1909).

King, Frank, High Holme Nurseries, Louth, Lincs. (March, 1909).

Knobel. Miss E. Maud, 42, Tavistock Square, London, W.C. (Dec., 1911).

Lamb. E. J., Alverstone, Thetford Road, New Malden, Surrey. (May, 1906).

Larner, H. B., Holt, Norfolk. (August, 1909).

Lee, Mrs. E. D., Hartwell House, Aylesbury. (Sept., 1910).

Legh de Legh, Dr. H., Redcar, Yorks. (April, 1911).

Lewis, J., Corstorphine, Ryde, Isle, of Wight. (June, 1908).

Little, Miss C. Rosa, Baronshalt, The Barons, East Twickenham. (Nov., 1902).

Longdon, Mrs. C. A., Arreton, Epsom Road, Guildford. (Feb., 1909).

Loode, A. C., 342, West Main Street, Lexington, Fayette, Co. Ky., U.S.A. (January, 1911).

Lowe, A. J. C., 9 Rectory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham. (January, 1912.)

Lythgoe, G. W. F., 76, Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford, Manchester. (Nov., 1906).

Mace, J., 76 Blonk Street, Sheffield. (Feb., 1911).

McDonagh, J. E. R., M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P., F.Z.S., F.L.S., 19, Harley Street, London, W. (Jan., 1903).

McIntyre, Mrs. J., Muchall, Nr. Wolverhampton, Staffs. (Feb., 1911).

McLaren, The Hon. Mrs. Morrison, Kepwick Park, Northallerton, Yorks. (Nov., 1906).

McDonald, Miss, Meadow Bank, Hollington Park, St. Leonards-on-Sea. (April, 1911).

Mackenzie, Jos. E., Chetolah Park, 21 Slipe Pen Road, Kingston, Jamaica. B.W.I. (March, 1910).

Mahon. Mrs. Alice S., Brookhill, Claremorris, Ireland. (May, 1910).

MALDEN, Countess, EVELINE, Wragmore, Southbury, Leighton Buzzard. (Aug., 1909).

MALLETT, E. A., M.A., Rose Villa, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley, Yorks. (Sept., 1911).

MAPPIN, STANLEY, 12 Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, London, S.W. (Feb., 1911).

MARMONT, W. B., The Firs, Amberley, near Stroud. (Oct., 1908).

MARRINER, J. SUMNER, Woodbank, Denton, Ben Rhydding. (Oct., 1909).

MARSHALL, Mrs., Marrowells, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. (April, 1911).

MASTER, G., M.B., B.C., 86, Guildhall Street, Bury St. Edmunds. (Nov., 1903).

MATHIAS, HAYWARD W., F.R.H.S., Lucerne, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants. (Oct., 1908).

MAXWELL, C. T., 1 Shardcroft Aven, Herne Hill, Surrey. (Dec., 1908).

MEADOWS, J. C. W., 17, Cardiff Road, Luton, Beds.

MEDWIN, S. A., Cheniston House, Farnham, Surrey. (Nov., 1911).

MILLER, Mrs. K. LESLIE, 27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W. (Jan., 1904).

MILLER TINNISWOOD, F.Z.S., 27, Belgrave Road, London, S.W. (Sept., 1907).

MILLSUM, O., Everberg par Cortenberg, Brabant, Belgium. (July, 1907).

MITCHELL, H., Haskells, Lyndhurst, Hants. (Sept., 1903).

MONEY, L. G. CHIOZZA, M.P., Tyhurst, Chaldon, Surrey. (Oct., 1910).

MONTAGUE, G. R., 63, Croxsted Road, West Dulwich. (Feb., 1909).

MORRIS, A., Broadway Chambers, Ilford, Essex. (Feb., 1911).

MORTIMER, Mrs. Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. (Orig. Mem).

MORTIMER, Miss, Wigmore, Holmwood, Surrey. (Nov., 1908).

MUNDAY, Miss SYBIL, Shipley Hall, Derby. Aug., 1911).

NEWBOLD, T., Heathcote, Martin, S.O. Yorks. (Dec., 1902).

NEWLEY, R. A., 24, Stockwell Green, London, S.W. (Nov., 1910).

NEWMAN, T. H., F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., Newlands, Harrowdene Road, Wembley, Middlesex. (July, 1903).

NICOLSON, THOS., G., F.Z.S., Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. (June, 1910).

OAKEY, W., 34, High Street, Leicester, (Orig. Mem).

OBERHOLSER, HARRY C., 1,444, Fairmont Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A. (Dec., 1903).

O'NEIL, ARTHUR, 25, Eldred Street, Carlisle. (Jan., 1911).

O'REILLY, NICHOLAS S., 80 Marine Parade, Brighton. (Orig. Member).

PAGE, W. T., F.Z.S., *(Hon. Editor)*, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey. (May, 1905).

PAINTER, V. KENYON, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A. (Nov., 1910).

Partridge, Mrs., Loxia, Richmond Road, Worthing. (Dec., 1905).

Paterson, Rev. J. Mapletoft, St. John's Vicarage, Hollington, St., Leonard's-on-Sea. (Nov., 1908).

Pauwels, Robert E., Everberg par Cortenberg, Brabant, Belgium. (Sept., 1909).

Pennant, Lady Edith Douglas, Soham House, Newmarket. (July, 1908).

Perkins, E., Chester Hill, Woodchester, Gloucestershire. (Feb., 1903).

Perreau, Capt., G. A., F.Z.S., 2-4 Gurkha Rifles, Bakloh, Punjaub, India. (Dec., 1903).

Perreau, Mrs. R. A. D., 11, Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh, N.B. (Sept., 1908).

Perring, C. S. R., 1, Walpole Road, Twickenham. (Oct., 1902).

Phair, H. J., Broad Street, Alresford, Hants. (Jan., 1912).

Pickard, H. K., 298, West End Lane, London, N.W. (Oct., 1901).

Pickles, W. H., Stonyhurst, Morecombe, Lancs. (May, 1904).

Pike, L. G., King Barrow, Wareham, Dorset. (Dec., 1910).

Pilkington, Lady Kathleen, Chevet Park, Wakefield. (Sept., 1908).

Pithie, Miss Dorothy, Bellevue, Lymington, Hants. (Sept., 1911).

Poltimore, Lady, Poltimore Park, Exeter. (Aug., 1911).

Pond, Mrs. T., 174, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. (Nov., 1902).

Quincy, R. de Quincy, Inglewood, Chislehurst, Kent. (Aug., 1910).

Rattigan, G. E., Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W. (March, 1909).

Raven, W. H., 239, Derby Road, Nottingham. (Oct., 1909).

Raynor, Rev. G. H., Hazleigh Rectory, Maldon, Essex. (Dec., 1909).

Read, Mrs. W. H., 215, Chesterton Road, Cambridge. (Jan., 1911).

Reeman, W., Post Office, Westbrook, Margate, Kent. (Jan., 1912).

Reeve, Capt. J. S., Leadenham House, Lincoln. (March, 1908).

Restall, J. A., 82, Cambridge Street, Birmingham. (Nov., 1903).

Rice, Capt. G., Clayquhat, Blairgowrie, N.B. (July, 1902).

Robbins, H., Campden Hill Square, London, W. (Oct., 1908).

Roberts, Mrs. G. L., 132 Queen's Road, London, W. (Jan., 1911).

Robson, J., 28, Camden Grove, Peckham, S.E. (Dec., 1909).

Roehl, C., 400, Edgware Road, London, W. (Sept., 1911).

Rogers, W. T., Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex. (Oct., 1907).

Rogerson, Mrs., Fleurville, Cheltenham. (Feb., 1903).

Rotch F. M., Sunnycliff, Cholmondley Road, West Kirby, Cheshire. (Orig. Mem.)

Roth, Fred G. R., Sherwood Place, Englewood, N.J., U.S.A. (Nov. 1908).

Rothwell, James E., Sewell Avenue, Brooklyn, Mass., U.S.A. (Feb., 1911).

Routh, Col., J. J., 2 Beechworth Villas, Cheltenham. (Jan., 1912).

Row, C. H., Chapel House, Long Melford, Suffolk. (Dec., 1905).

Rumsey, Lacy, 23 Rua de Terpa Pinto, Villa Nova de Gaya, Oporto, Portugal. (Oct., 1911).

Savage, A., 16 Rue Gilbert 16, Rouen, France. (Dec., 1905).

Scott, J. Easton, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).

Scott, B. Hamilton, Hamildean, Ipswich. (July, 1910).

Scott, Mrs. J. Easton, Birdhurst, Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey. (March, 1908).

Sellars, P. H., 81 Hyndland Street, Partick, N.B. (Jan., 1911).

Sheldon H., Holly House, Chingford, Essex. (Feb., 1911).

Sich, H. L., c/o Dr. L. Lovell-Keays, Park Lodge, East Hoathley, Sussex, and Corney House, Chiswick, W. (June, 1908).

Sidebottom, Mrs. E. Harrop, Etherow House, Hollingworth, Cheshire. (Feb., 1908).

Sills, Arthur, 260, Loughborough Road, Leicester. (Jan., 1911).

Silver, Allen, 303, High Road, Streatham, London, S.W. (Orig. Mem.)

Simpson, R. E., 9, Christ Church Avenue, Armley, Leeds. (Dec., 1907).

Sladden, J. H., 140, Denmark Road, Lowestoft. (Oct., 1908).

Smith-Ryland, Mrs., Barford Hill, Warwick. (April, 1909).

Smith, W., 12, Claremont Road, Redruth, Cornwall. (May, 1910).

Smith, W. S., 24, Jubilee Street, Luton, Beds. (Dec., 1908).

Smith, J., Woodlands, Kendal.

Smyth, Miss Alfreda, 40 Davenport Road, Catford, London, S.E. (Jan., 1911).

Snarey, H., 21 Leamington Road, Blackburn. (March, 1911).

Somers, Frank, M.R.C.V.S., 66, Francis Street, Leeds. (Jan., 1907).

Southcombe, S. L., Heskin, Birch Grove, Taunton. (Sept., 1910).

Spencer, P. J., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. (Edin), 147, Mellison Road, Tooting, London, S.W. (May, 1910).

Sprankling, E., Brookland Cottage, South Road, Taunton. (Feb., 1908).

Sproston, Mrs., The Elm House, Nantwich, Cheshire. (Jan., 1911).

Stead, Edgar, Strowan, Christchurch, New Zealand. (Sept., 1911).

Sterckmans, Dr. C., 28, Rue del la Station, Louvain, Belgium. (Aug., 1910).

Stocker, J. M., The Villas, Stoke-on-Trent. (Nov., 1908).

Street, E., 75, and 76, Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent. (May, 1909).

Stuart-Wortley, Mrs., Dock House, Beaulieu, Hants. (Oct., 1910).

SYKES JOHN, 16, Shorthope Street, Musselburgh, N.B. (Jan., 1912). 1912).

SUFFOLK and BERKSHIRE, Countess of, Charlton Park, Malmesbury. (Feb., 1909).

SUGGITT, R., Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes. (Dec., 1903).

SUTCLIFFE, ALBERT, Field House, Grimsby. (May, 1907).

SUTTON, J. PELHAM, Melbourne Lodge, Carlton Road, Putney, London, S.W. (May, 1910).

SWAYSLAND, W., 47, Queen's Road, Brighton. (Orig. Mem.).

TEMPLE, W. R., Ormonde, Datchet, Bucks. (Dec., 1908).

TESCHEMAKER, W. E., B.A., Ringmore, Teignmouth, Devon. (Mar., 1907).

THOMPSON, M., 4 William Street, Roslyn, Dunedin, New Zealand. (June, 1911).

THORBURN, Miss C. W., 99, Edge Lane, Liverpool. (March, 1910).

THORPE, Mrs., 31, Castleton Road, West Kensington, London, W. (Jan., 1911).

THWAITS, Dr. GILBERT B., 54, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton. (May, 1910).

TIDEY, J. W., Oakdene, Victoria Road, Worthing. (Jan., 1912).

TOMASSI BALDELLI, La Countessa G., 4, Via Silvio Pelico, Florence, Italy. (Dec., 1901).

TOWNSEND, S. M., (*Hon. Exhibitional Secretary*), 3, Swift Street, Fulham, S.W. (Orig. Member).

TOYE, Mrs. M., Stanhope, Bideford, N. Devon. (Nov., 1901).

TRAVERS, Miss ANNETTE, Kingcraigee, Courtmacsherry, co. Cork. (Dec., 1903).

TRAVIS, Mrs. E., Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge. (Jan., 1911).

TRELOAR, Sir Wm., Bart., Grange Mount, Norwood, Surrey. (June, 1909).

TURNER, THOS. F., 20, Sheffield Road, Tinsley, Sheffield. (July, 1911).

TURNER-TURNER, Mrs., Abbey Spring, Beaulieu, Hants. (Nov., 1910).

TYSON, C. R., 169, Sloane Street, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Feb., 1911).

VALENTINE, E., 7, Highfield, Workington. (Dec., 1911).

VOLLMAR, P., 8, George Street, Minories, London, E.C. (Feb., 1909).

WADDELL, Miss E. G. R. PEDDIE, 4, Great Stuart Street, Edinburgh. (Feb., 1909).

WAIT, Miss L. M. St. A., 12, Rosary Gardens, London, S.W. (Dec., 1907).

WALKER, A., M.A., B.Sc., M.D., The Chestnuts, Westbourne Grove, Sheffield. (Dec., 1907).

WALSH, J., 159, Dukes Brow, Blackburn. (Dec., 1908).

Walsh, Jeffrey, Pheasant Aviaries, Blackburn. (Oct., 1910).

Ward, Hon. Mrs. Somerset, Carrowden Castle, Donaghadee, co. Down. (Oct., 1905).

Wardale, H., Willington House, Willington Quay, Northumberland. (May, 1903).

Wardleworth, Douglas, M.B., Ch.B., St. Nicholas, Sheringham, R.S.O., Norfolk. (Feb , 1911).

Waren-Williams, H. E., Woodcote Lodge, Wallington, Surrey. (Jan., 1911).

Watson, S., 37, Tithebarn Street, Preston, Lancs. (Sept., 1910).

Watts, Rudolph, Wilmar, Wiggenhall Road, Watford. (Nov., 1906).

Webb, Miss Katherine, 35, Barton Road, Cambridge. (July, 1909).

Webster, Lady, Powdermill House, Battle, Sussex. (Feb., 1911).

Westacott, H., Wellington Hotel, Minehead. (Sept., 1907).

Weston, G. E. 66, Woodsome Road, Highgate, London, N. (July, 1908).

Wethey, Mrs. R. E., Leholm, Redcar, Yorks. (July, 1911).

Whitmore, Sydney, 4, Pemberton House, Doughty Street, London, W.C. (Sept., 1911).

Willford, Henry (*Hon. Treasurer and Business Secretary*), Uplands View, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight. (July, 1908).

Willford Neville, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight. (July, 1908).

Williams, Mrs. C. H., Emmanuel Parsonage, Exeter. (Jan., 1911).

Williams, Mrs. Ffrench, 6 Wellington Square, Chelsea, London, S.W. (Dec., 1909).

Williams, Mrs. L., Oatlands, Sunbridge Avenue, Bromley, Kent. (June, 1910).

Williams, Sydney, F.Z.S., Holland Lodge, Edmonton, London, N. (Oct., 1910).

Wilson, Miss F. M., 34, Charrington Street, Oakley Square, London, N. (March, 1906).

Wilson, T. N., M.A., Oak Lodge, Bitterne, near Southampton. (Jan., 1902).

Winchelsea and Nottingham, The Countess of, Harlech, Merionethshire. (June, 1903).

Wimble, Chas., Thirlmere, South End Road, Beckenham. (Dec., 1909).

Wood, Mrs. M. C., 8 Onslow Crescent, London, S.W. (Jan., 1912).

Wood, L. W., 36, Billing Street, Northampton. (April, 1911).

Wright, G. B., c/o G. Heaton, Church Hill, Handsworth, Birmingham. (June, 1908).

Wright, F. H., Westholme, Sandal, Wakefield. (Jan., 1911).

Wright, H., Newcombe, L.L.B., Westholme, Sandal, Wakefield (Jan., 1911).

Wrottesley, The Hon. Walter B., F.Z.S., Seisdon, Apsley End, Hemel Hempstead. (Dec., 1902).

Yealland, James, Havenstreet, Isle of Wight. (Sept., 1909).

Yeoman, Mrs. Pattison, The Close, Brompton, Nr. Northallerton, Yorks. (April, 1910).

Young, Arthur E., Osborne Avenue, Newcastle-on-Tyne. (Oct., 1911).

Associates.

Acutt, J., Goodrest, Manor Road, New Milton, Hants. (July, 1907).

Brickwood, Miss E., 3, Ladies' Lodge, Dunstable, Beds. (May, 1907).

Halliday, Charles, Bridge Street, Banbridge, co. Down. (June, 1903).

Hentsch, W. J., Douglas Villa, Acacia Grove, New Malden, Surrey. (Jan., 1904).

Hyde, and Co., Ltd., R., Harold Street, Camberwell, S.E. (May, 1902).

Martin, Mrs. Horace, 13, Hillside, Wimbledon, Surrey. May, 1904).

The Hon. Business Secretary requests that he may be promptly advised of any errors or omissions in the above list.

RULES.

1. The objects of "The Foreign Bird Club" shall be the mutual encouragement and assistance of the members and associates in the keeping, breeding, and exhibiting of Foreign Birds, and the improvement of Shows in regard to them.

2. The club shall be composed of members and associates. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 10s. Every associate shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 5s. Associates shall have such of the privileges of members as the Council shall from time to time direct. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's or associate's subscriptions shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a member or associate of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member, or associate accordingly, but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.

3. New members shall be proposed in writing by a member of the Club; and the name and address of every person thus proposed, with the name of the person proposing him, shall be published in the Notices to Members. Unless the candidate shall, within fourteen days after the publication of his name, be objected to by at least two members, he shall be duly elected. If two or more members shall lodge with either Secretaries objections to any candidate, he shall not be elected, but the signature to the signed objections must be verified by the Scrutineer. The Secretaries and the Scrutineer shall not disclose the names of the objectors. Associates

desirous to become members shall go through the same form of election as other candidates, but shall not pay an entrance fee.

4. Any member wishing to resign at the end of the current year of the Club shall give notice of his intention to one of the Secretaries before the 31st of December, and in default of such notice he shall be liable to the following year's subscription.

5. The Officers of the Club shall be elected from the members, and shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-presidents, an Auditor, a Scrutineer, one or more Secretaries, a Treasurer, a Veterinary Surgeon, and a Council of Eighteen members, and such number of Judges as shall from time to time be determined by the Council. The Editor, Secretaries, Treasurer, and Veterinary Surgeon shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council. Three members of the Council retire annually by seniority, but are eligible for re-election. The Editor, Secretaries, and Treasurer shall be elected triennially. The Council and Judges shall be elected in a manner hereinafter provided. The other officers shall be elected annually at a meeting of the Council, immediately after their own election.

6. The election for the three annual vacancies on the Council, and the Judges, shall take place every year between the 15th of November and the 5th of December. The Secretaries shall ascertain which of the members are willing to stand for election to office, and shall send to each member of the Club on or about the 15th of November a voting paper containing a list of all such members, showing the offices for which they are respectively seeking election. Each member shall make a (X) opposite the names of those for whom he desires to vote, and shall sign the paper at the foot, and send it in a sealed envelope to the Scrutineer, so that he may receive it before 5th of December. The Scrutineer shall prepare a return of the officers elected, showing the number of votes recorded for each candidate, and send it to one of the Secretaries for publication in the Notices to Members for December. The Scrutineer shall not reveal to any person how any member shall have voted. In the event of an equality of votes the President shall have a casting vote.

7. Dealers in birds shall not be eligible for election to any office in the Club, except that of Judge. For the purpose of this rule, any member who habitually buys birds with the intention of selling them again, shall be deemed a bird dealer. Before the annual election of officers, the Secretaries shall submit to the Council the list of members willing to stand for election to the Secretaryship, the Treasurership, and the Council: and the Council shall remove from the list the name of any candidate who shall be, in the opinion of the Council, a dealer in birds, within the meaning of this rule. The decision of the Council or of any Committee to whom the Council shall delegate its power under this rule, shall be final. When a dealer is proposed as a member of the Club, the fact of his being a dealer shall be stated in the Notices to Members.

8. It shall be lawful for the Council to delegate any of its power to a Committee.

9. The Council may appoint an Arbitration Committee, which may decide questions at issue between members or associates, when requested to do so by both parties. Any decision of such Committee shall be final. Except to the extent permitted by this rule, the Club and its officers shall decline to concern themselves with disputes between members.

10. The Council shall have power to alter and add to these Rules, but shall give to the members notice of any proposed alteration or addition, and in the event of six members objecting thereto within fourteen days the proposed alterations or addition shall be submitted to the votes of the members. Failing such objection the alteration shall date from its adoption by the Council.

11. The Council shall have power to expel any member or associate at any time.

12. Neither the office of Scrutineer nor that of Auditor shall be held for two consecutive years by the same person. The Scrutineer shall not be a candidate at any election at which he acts as Scrutineer.

13. If any office becomes vacant at any time other than the end of the current year of the Club, the Council shall have power to appoint any member to fill the vacancy.

14. The decision of the majority of the Council shall be final and binding on the Club, but a resolution passed by the Council shall not be acted upon unless there be an absolute majority of the Council (and not merely of those voting) in its favour.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: We would remind members that all subscriptions become due on January 1st, and are payable in advance With this issue we are distributing Banker's Orders, and we trust as many as possible will make use of them, as it will tend to make a little lighter the arduous task of your honorary officials.

ROLL: Each member is requested to check his or her name at once, and to promptly notify the Hon. Editor of any error or omission on same.

MEMBERS: We once more bring forward that hardy annual "more members," and again urge one and all to make an effort that the rate of annual progression may be more than maintained. What the few (officials only) cannot attain, *the many can easily achieve.*

ILLUSTRATIONS: To keep up number and quality of these will always be a source of anxiety and difficulty to your Magazine Committee, and we urge all who can to contribute to the Illustration Fund, that we may not have to curtail. We have at the present time a most interesting collection of photos and drawings awaiting reproduction, if we can only use them all.

HONORARY PHOTOGRAPHER: As announced in our last issue, Mr. H. Willford, has kindly consented to act in this capacity; and to the end that the Club may fully benefit by his kindness, members are asked to carefully note the following:

Will members knowing of nests of any but the most common species in their localities, and who could procure permission for them to be photographed (in any part of the country) kindly drop Mr Willford a card.

Similarly, Mr. Willford will be glad to illustrate articles of rarer nesting results—*i.e.* to go to any part of the country (where-ever time permits), and photograph for reproduction in *Bird Notes* uncommon nesting and other avicultural episodes in members' aviaries.

We cannot let this announcement pass without expressing our keen appreciation of Mr. Willford's valuable assistance, for it must be noted that Mr. Willford is prepared to carry out the above without any charge on the club's funds; hoping by this means that many interesting episodes of the domestic life of indigenous species, and very many more of the avicultural events occurring in the course of the year, will thereby have a permanent record in the Club's Journal "*Bird Notes*," and the latter's practical value and interest thereby materially increased.

THE MAGAZINE: We shall continue on the lines of the past year, with as many improvements as the interest and enthusiasm of our members will permit us to make. One thing is assured if each member will only send us something of the doings of their birds during the year, *the past will be eclipsed*! There must be many interesting records for 1911 that have not yet been recorded in the Club Journal. Our last volume is largely a record of members aviaries and their birds, and we fain would have the present volume even more so.

COMMITTEES: The composition of these, with Auditor, Scrutineer, and Judges, for the year will be announced in next issue.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Secretary.*

The Illustration and Deficit Funds.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :—

	£	s.	d.
H. D. Astley, M.A., etc.	5	5	0
Hon. M. C. Hawke (E.T. Fund)	0	10	0
J. H. Henstock	0	10	0
Miss Lock	0	2	6
J. C. W. Meadows	0	5	0
Captain Perreau	1	0	0
Miss St. A. Wait	0	10	0

Obituary.

A. L. Keith-Murray, Chudleigh Villas, Bideford, Devon, on December 18th, 1911.

New Members Elected.

Miss E. Maud Knobel, 32, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.
Arthur J. C. Lowe, 9, Rectory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.
D. G. Hatchell, Grosvenor Club, Picadilly, London, W.
Miss Vera Bromwich, 12, Hill Street, Rutland Gate, London, S.W.
Ernest Valentine, 7, Highfield, Workington.

Miss Amy S. Eccles, The Glade, Dilton Hill, Surrey.
Mrs. Murilla Cyril Wood, 8, Onslow Crescent, London, S.W.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Col. J. J. Routh 2, Beechworth Villas, Cheltenham.
By H. W. Mathias.

W. Redman, Post Office, Westbrook, Margate, Kent.
By W. T. Rogers.

Mrs. E. Cartwright, Bretton Lodge, Wakefield.
By H. W. Mathias.

J. W. Tidey, Oakdene, Victoria Road, Worthing.
By H. R. Fillmer.

John Sykes, 16, Shorthope Street, Musselburgh, Scotland.
By H. Goodchild.

Edouard Godry, Le Coteau, Lantheuil par Creully (Calvados), France.
By the Hon. Editor.

H. J. Phair, Broad Street, Alresford, Hants.
By H. Willford.

The Show Season.

The Show Committee wish to thank Miss M. E. Baker for presenting the two specials as under :—

L.P.O.S. Crystal Palace Show :
2s. 6d. for most points in Parrakeet Class.
2s. 6d. for most points in Finch Class.

S. M. TOWNSEND.
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny, minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES : All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.
Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock, Also special mixture for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1s. 6d., with larger proportion of animal matter 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb. Letters only.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

WANTED: "Bird Notes," Vol. I., First Series, bound or in loose parts; also Part I., Vol. I., New Series.—Apply J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised birds from private aviary: Scarlet Tanager 21s., Rosy Pastor 15s. 6d., Nutmeg Finches 2s. 6d., Indian Dyal 30s., Bocage's Widow Bird 10s. 6d., Green Budgerigars 4s. pair, Green Cardinals 20s. 6d. each, Saffron Finches 2s. 3d. each, White-crested Virginian Quail £3 3s. pair. Rattigan, Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.

CALIFORNIAN Quail, cock, two hens, 20s.; Pair Bronze-neck Doves 15s.; Crested Dove, cock, 10s.; Violet Dove 10s.; White-cheeked Crested Quail, cock, 15s. Approval.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

BOOKS FOR SALE: Foreign Finches, sixty coloured plates, by "Butler"; Two volumes Butler's Birds of Great Britain, 60 and 55 coloured plates; Part I. Illustrated Butler's Foreign Birds for Cage and Aviary. Condition guaranteed as new. What offers.—Murray, Chudleigh Villa, Bideford, Devon.

WANTED: 3 Hen Blue-winged Lovebirds; 2 pairs Crimson-wing Parrakeets, and 3 Hen Gouldian Finches, FOR SALE: Pair of Ruficauda Finches, acclimatised, 30s.—Miss L. Clare, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon ,S.W.

FOR SALE: Three Pennant x Rosella Hybrids, hatched last June, very beautiful and striking birds, fully moulted, perfect health, in outdoor unheated aviary, 25s. each.—Marriner, Denton, Ben Rhydding.

FOR SALE: Golden Pheasants, pure bred, 22s. the pair.—Mrs. Croysdale, Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

FOR SALE: Most desirable modern built Residence, Aviaries and Grounds, situated on the Surrey Hills, 600 feet above sea level; 45 minutes from London Bridge. House: 3 Reception Rooms, 5 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Pantry, Lavatories; and all Modern conveniences. Grounds: 2½ acres Woodland (oak, beech, and hazel underwood); 2½ acres pleasure grounds (lawns, pergolas, bowers, and planted with hundreds of choice rose trees, shrubs, etc.) Aviaries: 2, each 70 feet long, naturally planted, fountains, shelters, only recently completed at great cost. For further particulars and cards to view, apply to W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

D. De VON & CO.,

114, BETHNEL GREEN ROAD, LONDON, will receive direct from India in a few days a consignment of Sunbirds, Mynahs, Shamas, Golden Orioles , Dyal Birds, Flycatchers, Barbets, and other rare birds. Please ask for Price Lists. Address as above. Telephone, 5489 "Wall"; Telegraphic Address "Oiseaux," London.

FEBRUARY, 1912.

The Foreign Bird Club.

(*Continued from page* 1).

Magazine Committee:

Dr. P. Gosse.
H. Gray, M.R.C.V.S.
J. H. Harrison.
Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh.
Hayward W. Mathias F.R.H.S
Dr. J. Easton Scott.
R. Suggitt.

Show Committee:

Miss C. Rosa Little.
Allen Silver.
S. M. Townsend. (Sec.)

Social Committee.

Mrs. C. Anningson.
Miss M. E. Baker.
W. Bamford.
W. T. Rogers (Sec.).
A. Sutcliffe.
W. R. Temple.

Awards and Arbitration Committee.

E. W. Chaplin.
Dr. H. Hetley
Countess of Winchilsea.
Hon. W. B. Wrottesley.
R. Suggitt (Sec.).

Scrutineer
R. Watts

Auditor.
S. Williams, Jun., F.Z.S.

Judges.

H. T. T. Camps.
H. R. Fillmer.
R. Humphrys.
J. Robson.
W. Swaysland.
S. M. Townsend.

Notice to Members.

The Magazine: The recent L.P.O.S. Show, practically ends the exhibition season 1911-12, and we trust members will not fail to send in copy of the doings of their birds now that the more purely avicultural portion of the year is upon us; and to this end we urge every member to keep an Aviary Log Book, and to send in their records from time to time. Articles are specially requested upon the following subjects:

Breeding Records, all species.
British Birds.
Aviary Episodes in General.
Feeding and Treatment of Birds.

Parrots, Parrakeets, Lories, and Lorikeets (articles are specially requested upon this group, they have not hitherto received their due share of our space).

Our Illustrations: These add greatly to the cost of the Magazine and also to its general effectiveness, but these can only be maintained in their present profusion by liberal donations to the Illustration Fund. At the present time we have the opportunity of securing photos of Foreign Birds, nests and eggs, young being fed, etc. (from life) in their native wilds, some of which we hope will appear in a near issue—it would be very regrettable if we had to let the opportunity slip by, also of availing ourselves fully of Mr. Willford's generous offer. We would remind members that there are no paid officials, working expenses are low, and that they themselves are the sole beneficaries of the fund.

New Members: We would point out there is no time like the beginning of a fresh club year to secure these, and we are assured that, if each member made the F.B.C. known to all their friends who are interested in birds, or send their names to either the Hon. Editor or Bus. Sec., who would send them particulars of the club and specimen of the Magazine, a large influx of members would be the result. We urge this upon the consideration of all.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Business Secretary.*

The Illustration and Deficit Funds.

	£	s.	d.
Dr. E. Hopkinson	0	10	0
Lady Kathleen Pilkington	1	0	0
Countess of Winchilsea and Nottingham	1	1	0
Hon. Miss A. Bruce	0	10	0
Miss E. F. Chawner	0	5	0
Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley	0	10	0
Rev. J. M. Paterson	0	10	0
Mrs. Perreau	0	2	6
H. L. Sich	0	10	0
Miss F. M. Wilson	0	10	0

Obituary.

With deepest regret we announce the death of one of the most active members of the Council and Magazine Committee, Hayward W. Mathias, on 10th inst., very suddenly, from heart failure.

Errata—Re Roll.

Miss E. Maud Knobel, *should be* 32, Tavistock Square, London, W.
Rev. G. H. Raynor—"Hazleigh Rectory," *should* be Hazeleigh Rectory.

New Members Elected.

Col. J. J. Routh 2, Beechworth Villas, Cheltenham.
W. Redman, Post Office, Westbrook, Margate, Kent.
Mrs. E. Cartwright, Bretton Lodge, Wakefield.
J. W. Tidey, Oakdene, Victoria Road, Worthing.
John Sykes, 16, Shorthope Street, Musselburgh, Scotland.
Edouard Godry, Le Coteau, Lantheuil par Creully (Calvados), France.
H. J. Phair, Broad Street, Alresford, Hants.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Rev. W. J. Constable, Uppingham, Rutland. *By the Hon. Editor.*
E. Bagehot Kite, Haines Hill House, Taunton, Somerset. *By E. Sprankling.*
J. W. Curson, Temperance Hotel, opposite Central Station, Lowestoft. *By J. Smith.*
Rosslyn Mannering, 117 Elsenham Street, Southfields, London, S.W. *By H. Willford.*

The Bird Market.

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AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock, Also special mixture for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1s. 6d., with larger proportion of animal matter 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb. Letters only.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Most desirable modern built Residence, Aviaries and Grounds, situated on the Surrey Hills, 600 feet above sea level; 45 minutes from London Bridge. House: 3 Reception Rooms, 5 Bedrooms, Kitchen, Pantry, Lavatories; and all Modern conveniences. Grounds: 2½ acres Woodland (oak, beech, and hazel underwood); 2½ acres pleasure grounds (lawns, pergolas, bowers, and planted with hundreds of choice rose trees, shrubs, etc.) Aviaries: 2, each 70 feet long, naturally planted, fountains, shelters, only recently completed at great cost. For further particulars and cards to view, apply to W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

MRS. MILLER has some well bred Prince Charles Spaniel Puppies for Sale three and a half months old. Price from £3 3s. 0d. each. Puppies, Parents, and Pedigree can be seen by appointment, 27, Belgrave Road, S.W.

NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED: "Bird Notes," Vol. I., First Series, bound or in loose parts; also Part I., Vol. I., New Series.—Apply J. H. Henstock, Market Place, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

WANTED: Cock Diamond Dove, also hen Peaceful Dove.—W. J. Lewis, Corstorphine, Ryde, I. of W.

FOR SALE: Lovely deep yellow young prize bred Canary, in full song, 9s. 6d.—Mrs. Griffiths, The Yew's, Merton Park, Surrey. (Non-member).

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair Pekin Robins 7s. 6d., hen Paradise Whydahs 2s. 6d., or taken in exchange or part exchange for hen Gouldian Finch. Green cross-bred Canaries: cocks 3s. 6d., hens 2s.—H. Sheldon, Holly House, Chingford, Essex.

FOR SALE: Grey-headed Ouzel (*Merula castanea*), very handsome, quite hardy and acclimatised, 60s.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Pair Breeding Rosellas, from Aviary. WANTED: Stanley and other Parrakeets.—Curson's Hotel, Lowestoft.

FOR SALE: Fully adult, and unrelated Green BUDGERIGARS, 6s. pair; cocks, 2s. 6d.; Yellow Cocks, 3s. 6d.; Young Green's 4s. 6d. pair; cocks 2s.; Young Yellow cocks, 2s. 6d.; reliable breeders. Cock Zebra Finches, 3s. each; Young Cockateels (cocks), 4s. each; Chinese Painted Quails, cocks, 9s., hens, 11s.; all bred in my garden aviaries.—J. Ford, 258 Welford-road, Leicester.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair Pekin Robins, 7s. 6d.; Hen Paradise Whydah, 2s. 6d.; or taken in exchange or part-exchange for Hen Gouldian Finch. Green Cross-bred Canaries, Cocks, 3s. 6d., Hens, 2s.—H. Sheldon, Holly House; Chingford; Essex.

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LARGE MEALWORMS, 650 1s., 1,300 2s., 5s. lb. Boxes containing 6 lbs. 24s.
LIVE WHITE LIVER GENTLES, 1,000 7d., 2s. 6d. lb. 3 lbs. 5s. 6d.
ANTS' EGGS, 1s. 9d. lb., 3 lbs. 5s.
ANTS' EGGS, Special Quality, 2s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 7s.
DRIED FLIES, 2s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 7s.
FLAKED YOLK OF EGG, 4s. lb., 3 lbs. 11s.
EGG BREAD, 1s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s.
SILKWORM PUPAE, 1s .6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s.
CARROT MEAL, 9d. lb., 3 lbs. 2s.
CRISSEL, 4d. lb., 7 lbs. 2s.
BISCUIT MEAL, 2½d. lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
PEA AND BEAN MEAL, 2½d. lb., 5lbs. 1s.
RICE MEAL, 2½d., lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
SPECIAL OATMEAL 2½d. lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
GENUINE ITALIAN WHITE MILLET, 3½d. lb., 14 lbs. 3s. 6d., 28 lbs. 6s., 23s. 6d. per cwt.
GENUINE INDIAN MILLET, 2½d. lb., 14 lbs. 2s. 6d., 18s. cwt.
SPRAY MILLETS, large full sprays, 9d. per dozen, 2s. 6d. per bundle. of 50.
PADDY RICE, 3½lbs. 14 lbs. 3s. 6d.
GIANT SPANISH CANARY SEED, 3½d. lb.; 14lbs. 3s. 6d.; 24s. cwt.
REAL TURKISH CANARY SEED, 2½d. lb., 14lbs 2s. 6d.; 16s. 6d. cwt.

Samples and Catalogues Free.

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Bird Market Notes and News.

These notes will be as comprehensive as possible, but the Editor is not often able to make the round of the London Market, and their completeness must in a measure depend on the assistance members give him, in the way of supplying notes and accounts of rare and other arrivals which reach them.

The most noteworthy event of the present year is the arrival of a large (probably the last) consignment of Australian Finches, etc., consisting, I am informed, of 6,500 individuals; my informant states that when seen at Messrs. De Von's, 24 hours after arrival all appeared in excellent health and condition, as evidenced by their vivacity, alertness, etc., though they had a rough time of it crossing the Bay of Biscay; they had been on the open deck, under an awning the whole voyage. Among them were five of the very rare Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*Glossopsittacus porphyrocephalus*) only once before imported; it is called by Gould, the Porphyry-crowned Lorikeet; these were sold day of arrival. Among other species were noted: Red and Black-headed Gouldian Finches; Long-tailed and Masked Grassfinches; Crimson, Ruficauda, Bicheno, and Zebra Finches; Diamond Doves, etc., truly a goodly array. During the month (January), De Von's have also received from South America Pretre's Tanagers, Green Jays, Black-throated Troupial, Orange-headed Blackbird (rare); and from India, Shamas, two species of Sunbirds (23). Mynahs, Dyhal Birds, Blue Flycatcher, Yellow-cheeked Hill-Tits, Orange-Headed Ground Thrush, and others.

At the beginning of February, there arrived (privately we understand) some rare species for M. Pauvvels, including Fijian Parrot Finch (*Erythrura pealei*), and Pink-crested Bower Birds.

From the "Fancy" Press we glean that there are goodly numbers of "Freely Imported Species," many Troupials and Jays, including some rare and uncommon species. W.T.P.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notice to Members.

UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS: A few members have overlooked the fact that these are due on January 1st, and are payable in advance. It is requested that all who have not yet paid their subscription will kindly remit at once to the Hon. Treasurer, that he may be spared the unnecessary labour of making application for same, or the club's funds be wasted in unnecessary postage.

NEW MEMBERS: It is requested that these will take the receipt of *Bird Notes* as a notice of election, and remit their subscriptions and entrance fee to the Hon. Treasurer.

NON-RECEIPT OF MAGAZINE: Complaint should be made in first instance to the Publisher, but if such complaint should not receive attention (very improbable), then notice of same should be sent to the Hon. Business Sec.

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN DEFAULT: Rule 2—The club shall be composed of members and associates. Every member shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 10s. Every associate shall pay an entrance fee of 2s. 6d. and an annual subscription of 5s. Associates shall have such of the privileges of members as the Council shall from time to time direct. Subscriptions shall be due and payable in advance on the 1st of January in each year. If any member's or associate's subscriptions shall be more than three months overdue, he shall be suspended from all benefits of the Club, and if more than nine months overdue, notice of his having ceased to be a member or associate of the Club, and of the cause, may be published in Notices to Members; and on such notice being published he shall cease to be a member, or associate accordingly, but his liability for overdue subscriptions shall continue.

In accordance with the above rule, the following members,

Vincent E. Butler, Ingomar, Chepsow Road, Newport, Mon.
J. W. Cullen, St. Nicholas Works, St. Nicholas Square, Leicester.
A. J. Huxley, 57, Bradford Street, Walsall.

have now been *struck off the roll*, their subscriptions being in default and have made no response to numerous applications.

THE MAGAZINE: We should be glad to receive articles on Parrots, Parrakeets, Lories, and Lorikeets, also of indigenous species.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Secretary.*

The Illustration and Deficit Funds.

	£	s.	d.
Tunniswood, Miller	1	10	0
W. E. Teschemaker	2	0	0
Countess of Winchilsea and Nottingham (2nd donation)	0	11	0
J. Wardale	0	10	0
G. E. Weston	0	5	0

Errata—Re Roll.

Delete P. J. Spencer, L.R.C.P., 147, Mellison Road, Tooting, London,

Changes and Corrections of Address

E. Street, The Poplars, Oatwoods, Anslow, Burton-on-Trent.
H. Newcombe Wright, 207, Somerset Road, Almondbury, Huddersfield.
R. L. Crisp, 50, Elm Park Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.
Miss E. Maud Knobel, 32, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.
Dr. G. Thwartes, 94, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton.

New Members Elected.

Rev. W. J. Constable, Uppingham, Rutland.
E. Bagehot Kite, Haines Hill House, Taunton, Somerset.
J. W. Curson, Temperance Hotel, opposite Central Station, Lowestoft.
Rosslyn Mannering, 117 Elsenham Street, Southfields, London, S.W.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. James E. Mathews, 18, Stanhope Road, Highgate, London, N. *By Miss M. Bousfield.*
Mrs. Wortley Quait, St. Brannock's, Mundesley, Norfolk. *By the Hon. Editor.*
Captain A. E. Browne, Imperial Hotel, Rawal Pindi, Punjab. India. *By Lieut. G. Kennedy.*
Mrs. Lamb The Limes, Worting, Near Basingstoke. *By Miss Amy S. Eccles.*
F. Dawson Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks. *By H. Willford.*
R. Hoffmann, Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W. *By the Hon. Editor.*
P. Owen, 19, S'Loo Mansions, Chelsea, London, S.W. *By H. Willford.*

The Bird Market.

All advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge . Members' advertisements, four words a penny. minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE : To prevent possible error I wish to state that Mr. J. Yealland, formerly acting as my Secretary is no longer acting on my behalf, having left my employ in November 1911.—H. Willford, Upland View, Havenstreet, I. of W.

COLOURED PLATES : All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.
Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixture for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1s. 6d., with larger proportion of animal matter 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb. Letters only. – W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Japanese Teal (*Querquedula formosa*) in most magnificent condition, full-winged, at 10s. a pair. Black Sivans, at £8 a pair. Notice! Just received from China an assortment of Porcelain of the periods of Ming Kang-hi, Yung Chun, Keea Lung, Kea King, Tao Kwang, etc., etc.—Albert Edward Jamrach. 180, St. George Street, London, E.

WANTED: Cocks, Cordon Bleu, and Olive Finch. Hens, Cape Canary, Blue-winged Lovebirds, Red Rosella Parrakeet, St. Helena Waxbill, and pair Golden-breasted Waxbills. All must be from out-door aviary.—J. S. Reeve, Leadenham House, Lincoln.

FOR SALE: Lovely deep yellow young prize-bred Canary, in full song, 9s. 6d.—Mrs. Griffiths, The Yews, Merton Park, Surrey. (*Non-member*).

FOR SALE: Grey-headed Ouzel (*Merula castanea*), very handsome, quite hardy and acclimatised, 60s.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED : True pairs of Barnard, Blue-cheeked, Yellow-mantled, Pileated, and Yellow-rumped Parrakeets ; Cock Gang-Gang Cockatoo ; Hens,—King and Crimson-wing Parrakeets ; also a pair of Red-vented Blue-bonnet Parrakeets.—Apply, Miss L. Clare, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W.

FOR SALE : Cock Purple Sunbird, in my possession over three months £5, or would exchange for a cock Amethyst-rumped Sunbird.—Apply, Miss L. Clare, 194, Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, London, S.W.

FOR SALE: True pair Indian Shamas, both cage moulted, in perfect condition; will feed from hand, 50/- each, approval.—Walsh, Bird Specialist, Blackburn.

BUDGERIGAR RINGS: For indentifying young from 12 different nests 2s. 1d., Six 1s. 1d., three 7d., seven rings each nest with directions, post free.—J. Ford, 258, Welford Road, Leicester.

NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

D. DeVON & CO.

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Australian Gouldian Finches, 25s. pair; American Cat Birds, 25s.; Rosellas, 25s. pair; assorted bright coloured Finches, 1s. each, 9s. dozen.

Waterfowl, etc., in Stock. See our Price List.

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Red Gouldians 35s. and 40s. pair.
Masked Finches 16s., 20s. pair.
Bichenoes 20s., 25s. pair.
Cordons 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d. pair.
Only a few pairs of the above.
Crimson Ear Waxbills 2s. 6d. pair.
Orange Cheeks 2s. 6d. pair.
Silverbills 3s. pair.
Green Singing Finches 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d. pair.
Grey Singing Finches 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d. pair.
Bengalese 3s. 6d. pair.
Large Magpie Mannakins 5s. pair
Tricolor Mannakins 2s. 6d. pair.
White-headed Mannakins 3s. pair.
Black-headed Mannakins 2s. pair.
Bronze-wing Mannakins 2s. 6d. pair.
Saffron Finches 6s. 6d. pair.
Fire Finches 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 4s. pair.
Madagascar Weavers (full colour) 4s. 6d. each.
Cutthroats 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d. pair.
Weavers (various) 2s. 6d. pair.
Grey Javas 2s., 2s. 6d. pair.
White Javas 7s. 6d., 8s. 6d. pair.
Bib Finches 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d. pair.
Pekin Robins 1s. 6d., 2s. each.
Combassous 2s. 6d. pair.
Spice Birds 2s. pair.
Green Budgerigars 5s., 7s. 6d. pair.
Lavenders (a few) 4s. 6d. pair.
Mexican Green Jays 35s., £2 each.
Peruvian Green Jays 30s. each.
Red-crested Cardinals 7s. 6d. each.
Green Cardinals 20s., 25s. each.
Virginian Cardinals 30s., 35s. each.
Red Rosellas 35s., £2 pair.
Pennant x Rosella Hybrids £3 10s. pair.
Red-faced Lovebirds £2 pair.
Yellow Budgerigars 7s. 6d., 10s. pair.
Grey-headed Lovebirds 3s., 5s. pair
Blue-wing Lovebirds 7s. 6d., 10s. pair.
Cockatiels 10s., 12s. 6d., 15s. pair.
Red-rump Parrakeets 25s., 30s. pair
Siberian Cock Bullfinches 5s., 7s. 6d. each.
Siberian Hen Bullfinches 5s., 6s., 7s. 6d., 10s. each.
Californian Crested Quail 20s. pair.
Amazon Parrots 25s., 30s., 40s. each.
Indian Rock Parrots 10s., 12s., 20s. each.
Leadbeater Cockatoo £5.
Golden Pheasants 35s. pair.
Silver Pheasants 25s. pair.
Cow Birds 7s. 6d., 10s. each.
Napoleon Weavers 2s. 6d. pair.
American Mocking Birds 30s. each.
Long-tailed Glossy Starling 20s. each.
Paradise Whydahs in colour 5s pair
Green x Red-crested Cardinal Hybrids 10s., 15s. each.
Rose Cockatoos 10s., 15s. each.
Japanese Buntings 7s. 6d. pair.
Black Troupials 10s. each.
Siberian Snow Buntings 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d. each.
Siberian Bramble Finches 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., 2s. 6d. pair.
English Chaffinches, cocks 1s. each hens 3s., 6d. each.
Ring Doves 1s. 6d. pair.
White Fantails 4s. 6d. pair.
Foreign Doves and Quail continually arriving.

Packing Charges, under 5s., 3d.; over, 6d.

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It has been used for over 20 years by most of the leading fanciers, and is still pronounced to be the ideal food for Nightingales, Blackcaps, Wagtails, Creepers, Warblers, Wrens, Tanagers, Shamas, Bulbuls, and all delicate British and Foreign Insectivorous Birds. Price 1s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s., 14 lbs. 17s. 6d.

LARGE MEALWORMS, 650 1s., 1,300 2s., 5s. lb. Boxes containing 6 lbs. 24s.
LIVE WHITE LIVER GENTLES, 1,000 7d., 2s. 6d. lb. 3 lbs. 5s. 6d.
ANTS' EGGS, 1s. 9d. lb., 3 lbs. 5s.
ANTS' EGGS, Special Quality, 2s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 7s.
DRIED FLIES, 2s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 7s.
FLAKED YOLK OF EGG, 4s. lb., 3 lbs. 11s.
EGG BREAD, 1s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s.
SILKWORM PUPAE, 1s .6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s.
CARROT MEAL, 9d. lb., 3 lbs. 2s.
CRISSEL, 4d. lb., 7 lbs. 2s.
BISCUIT MEAL, 2½d. lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
PEA AND BEAN MEAL, 2½d. lb., 5lbs. 1s.
RICE MEAL, 2½d., lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
SPECIAL OATMEAL 2½d. lb., 5 lbs. 1s.
GENUINE ITALIAN WHITE MILLET, 3½d. lb., 14 lbs. 3s. 6d., 28 lbs. 6s., 23s. 6d. per cwt.
GENUINE INDIAN MILLET, 2½d. lb., 14 lbs. 2s. 6d., 18s. cwt.
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PADDY RICE, 3½lbs. 14 lbs. 3s. 6d.
GIANT SPANISH CANARY SEED, 3½d. lb.; 14lbs. 3s. 6d.; 24s. cwt.
REAL TURKISH CANARY SEED, 2½d. lb., 14lbs 2s. 6d.; 16s. 6d. cwt.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notice to Members.

Queries re Insectivorous and Frugivorous Birds: Owing to repeated and lengthy absences abroad, Mr. Russell Humphrys is compelled to relinguish answering these, which in the meantime must be sent to the Hon. Editor, Mr. W. T. Page. The Committee desire to express their appreciation and thanks to Mr. Russell Humphrys for the kind help given to our members over so long a period

Zoo Meeting: Though not so largely attended as we had hoped for, there are requests that they should be continued, and the Social Committee have arranged the following dates for the first two:—

Saturday, May 18th.—*Rendezvous*, Small Birds' House, London Zoo, 2 to 2-30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12th.—At same *rendezvous*, at 11 a.m. and 2 to 2-30 p.m.

Club badges to be worn.

It will greatly help the Committee if those intending to be present would notify the Secretary of the Social Committee, Mr. W. T. Rogers, Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex, as this would allow of some little organisation and more interesting and useful gatherings.

Club Meetings: The Council are anxious to develope these, not necessarily always at the Zoo, but elsewhere and both during the summer and winter months—we should be glad to receive suggestions from members on this subject—how best the general convenience of the majority may be met, character of meetings, etc.

HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Secretary.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Changes and Corrections of Address

G. E. Weston, to 42, Lewisham Road, Dartmouth Park, London, N.W.
Mrs. Cyril Wood, to 27, Avenue Montjoie, Meele, Brussels.
J. H. Harrison, The Crescent, Hastings Place, Lytham, Lancs.
T. Whitmore, 3, Holly Hill, Hampstead, London, N.
Dr. Hopkinson, 45, Sussex Square, Brighton.
Mrs. Roberts, Woogate, Maze Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea.
N. Willford, Woodside, Isabel Road, Hornchurch, Essex.
S. L. Southcombe, Highlands, Ash, Martock.

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New Members Elected.

Mrs. James E. Mathews, 18, Stanhope Road, Highgate, London, N.
Mrs. Wortley Quait, St. Brannock's, Mundesley, Norfolk.
Captain A. E. Browne, Imperial Hotel, Rawal Pindi, Punjab.
Mrs. Lamb The Limes, Worting, Near Basingstoke.
F. Dawson Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony Stratford, Bucks.
R. Hoffmann. Tower House, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, London, S.W.
P. Owen, 19, S'Loo Mansions, Chelsea, London, S.W.

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JAPANESE TEAL: (*Ouerquedula formosa*) at 10s. a pair. Victoria Crowned Pigeons, at £16 a pair. Vulturine Guinea Fowls, at £12 a pair.—Albert Edward Jamrach, 180, St. George Street, East.

NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

PAIR Black-cheeked Lovebirds, 20s.; Crested Dove (cock), Aurita, and White-winged Doves (hens); hen Silky Cowbird, 10s. each. Outdoor all winter.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers' House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Pair Golden Agouti (*Daziprocta aguti*) six weeks old, 30s.; Cutthroat Finches, 3s. 6d. pair. Yellow-throated Sparrow (hen), 5s. Crested Cardinal, 10s., out all winter. WANTED: Hen Zebra Finches (adult).—Gosse, Beaulieu, Hants.

THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB
FBC

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

BOOKS: For Sale, *The Book of Canaries and Cage Birds* (Cassell and Co.), complete, bound in cloth, gilt edges, good condition. Many coloured plates of Foreign and British Birds and Canaries; out of print, 25s. Butler's *Foreign Finches in Captivity*, 60 coloured plates, as new, 16s. Bradburn's *British Birds*, cloth, 2s. Green's *Parrots in Captivity*, Vols. I. and II., 10s. 6d. *Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. I., Series iii., 10s. *Bird Notes* Vols. VII. and VIII, bound, 12s. 6d. each; and New Series, Vol. I. and II., unbound, 10s. each. (The late Hayward Mathias's).—Apply, the Hon. Editor.

FOR SALE: Dusky Thrush (*Turdus leucomelas*), perfect health and splendid songster, believed to be the only specimen in the British Isles, 35s. Olive-winged Bulbul (*Pycnonotus sinensis*), condition perfect, thoroughly acclimatised, 10s. 6d. Both been in outdoor aviary for two years, room wanted.—Rogers, Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex.

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GOULDIAN FINCHES 25s. PAIR.

FOR SALE: White, Black-winged Grackle, and Indian cock Shama; acclimatised, good song and condition, two guineas each. Goodfellow, Mount Fleuri, Southbourne Grove, Bournemouth.

FOR SALE: True pair Spot-billed Toucanettes, £3 10s.; Spotted Bower-Birds, £5 pair; Long-tailed Glossy Starling, 30s.; Mexican Green Jay, 27s. 6d. All the above are thoroughly acclimatised, in perfect health and condition. -Geo. Fletcher, 92, Stafford Road, Sheffield.

WANTED: Acclimatised hens, Diamond Sparrow and Blackcap.—Nicolson, Glenoe, Walton-on-Thames.

EXCHANGE WANTED: Two-year-old aviary-bred, Green Cardinal hen, offered in exchange for cock.—Dr. Scott, Birdhurst Woodcote Road, Wallington, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Doves (cocks) Pigmy Dove, 15s.; Madagascar, 10s.; Picni, 6s. 6d. (Hens), 2 Dwarf or Ruddy Turtle, 12s. 6d. each; Red Mountain, 12s. 6d. Sex unknown: 4 Barbarys, 9d. each; small unknown Dove, 7s. 6d.; Pair Oriental Roller Pigeons, 7s. 6d. Cock Cockateel, 6s. Will accept £4 for the lot. —Miss Alderson, Park House, Worksop.

FOR SALE: Hen Chinese Painted Quail, wintered, outdoor aviary, 10s. 6d., or offer.—Mrs. Hartley, St. Helen's Lodge, Hastings.

TYPEWRITER: For sale almost new typewriter, "Oliver" (New model No. 3 foolscap), cost £22, would accept ten guineas for a quick sale.—Miss Mathias, Lucerne, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants.

FOR SALE: Sketches of various types of pigeons, signed by Harrison Weir. Fantails, Pouters, Nuns, etc. Also two proof engravings by Frank Paton, "Out of the hunt" and "Notice to quit." Any reasonable offer accepted. Belonging to the late Hayward Mathias.—For particulars apply the Hon. Editor-

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GEORGE ST., HULL.

B. HOLLINS, Proprietor (Member Foreign Bird Club.

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Zebra Finches 7s. 6d. pair.
Black Gouldians 25s. and 30s. pair
Red Gouldians 35s. and 40s. pair.
Masked Finches 16s., 20s. pair.
Bichenoes 20s., 25s. pair.
Cordons 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d. pair.
Only a few pairs of the above.
Crimson Ear Waxbills 2s. 6d. pair.
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Silverbills 3s. pair.
Green Singing Finches 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d. pair.
Grey Singing Finches 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d. pair.
Bengalese 3s. 6d. pair.
Large Magpie Mannakins 5s. pair
Tricolor Mannakins 2s. 6d. pair.
White-headed Mannakins 3s. pair.
Black-headed Mannakins 2s. pair.
Bronze-wing Mannakins 2s. 6d. pair.
Saffron Finches 6s. 6d. pair.
Fire Finches 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d., 4s. pair.
Madagascar Weavers (full colour) 4s. 6d. each.
Cutthroats 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d. pair.
Weavers (various) 2s. 6d. pair.
Grey Javas 2s., 2s. 6d. pair.
White Javas 7s. 6d., 8s. 6d. pair.
Bib Finches 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d. pair.
Pekin Robins 1s. 6d., 2s. each.
Combassous 2s. 6d. pair.
Spice Birds 2s. pair.
Green Budgerigars 5s., 7s. 6d. pair.
Lavenders (a few) 4s. 6d. pair.
Mexican Green Jays 35s., £2 each.
Peruvian Green Jays 30s. each.
Red-crested Cardinals 7s. 6d. each.
Green Cardinals 20s., 25s. each.
Virginian Cardinals 30s., 35s. each.
Red Rosellas 35s., £2 pair.
Pennant x Rosella Hybrids £3 10s. pair.
Red-faced Lovebirds £2 pair.
Yellow Budgerigars 7s. 6d., 10s. pair.
Grey-headed Lovebirds 3s., 5s. pair
Blue-wing Lovebirds 7s. 6d., 10s. pair.
Cockatiels 10s., 12s. 6d., 15s. pair.
Red-rump Parrakeets 25s., 30s. pair
Siberian Cock Bullfinches 5s., 7s. 6d. each.
Siberian Hen Bullfinches 5s., 6s., 7s. 6d., 10s. each.
Californian Crested Quail 20s. pair.
Amazon Parrots 25s., 30s., 40s each.
Indian Rock Parrots 10s., 12s., 20s. each.
Leadbeater Cockatoo £5.
Golden Pheasants 35s. pair.
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Cow Birds 7s. 6d., 10s. each.
Napoleon Weavers 2s. 6d. pair.
American Mocking Birds 30s. each.
Long-tailed Glossy Starling 20s. each.
Paradise Whydahs in colour 5s pair
Green x Red-crested Cardinal Hybrids 10s., 15s. each.
Rose Cockatoos 10s., 15s. each.
Japanese Buntings 7s. 6d. pair.
Black Troupials 10s. each.
Siberian Snow Buntings 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d. each.
Siberian Bramble Finches 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., 2s. 6d. pair.
English Chaffinches, cocks 1s. each hens 3s., 6d. each.
Ring Doves 1s. 6d. pair.
White Fantails 4s. 6d. pair.
Foreign Doves and Quail continually arriving.

Packing Charges, under 5s., 3d.; over, 6d.

Bird Market Notes and News.

These notes will be as comprehensive as possible, but the Editor is not often able to make the round of the London Market, and their completeness must in a measure depend on the assistance members give him, in the way of supplying notes and accounts of rare and other arrivals which reach them.

Grassfinches in good variety are still being offered by the principal dealers (see adverts.)

De Von and Co. recently received an interesting consignment of Indian Birds, consisting of Shamas, Mynahs, Orange-headed Ground Thrushes, Barbets, Silver-eared Mesias, Sunbirds, and Indian White-eyes (*Z. palpebrosa*), the latter a most interesting species and worth a place in every collection of foreign birds. Most interesting species are also being offered by Mr. A. E. Jamrach, as follows: Victoria Crowned Pigeons (*C. leuconota*); Impeyan Pheasants; Snow Finches; Nutcrackers; Jendaya, Half-moon, All Green Aztec and Blue-crowned Conures; Rosella, Grass, and Banded Parrakeets, White, White-crested, and Triton Cockatoos; Rheas; Black Swans, etc.

A goodly array of "The Freely Imported Species" are obtainable at the usual sources of supply.

The present is a good time for filling in any gaps among foreign species, so that they may settle down for breeding this season.

MAY, 1912.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notice to Members.

ZOO MEETINGS: Two of these have been arranged for as under:

Saturday, May 18th—*Rendezvous,* Small Birds' House, London Zoo, 2 to 2-30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 12th—At same *rendezvous,* at 11 a.m. and 2 to 2-30 p.m.

Club Badges to be worn.

It will greatly help the committee if those intending to be present would notify the Secretary of the Social Committee, Mr. W. T. Rogers, Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex, as this would allow of some little organization, with possibly more interesting and useful gatherings.

CLUB MEETINGS: The Council are anxious to develop these, not all necessarily at the Zoo, nor yet confined to the summer—they invite suggestions from members as to character, place, and time.

HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Secretary.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Proposed for Election as Members.

A. W. Adams, 118 Northampton Road, Market Harborough,
By the Hon. Editor.
H. W. Workman, Lismore, Windsor, Belfast,
By the Hon. Editor.
Hugh Goodacre, Ullesthorpe Court, Lutterworth, Leicestershire.
By Mrs. Davidson.
Otto Puck, Darenth Lodge, Chingford, Essex,
By J. Frostick.
Ernest Albert Strickland, 16 Alma Road, Windsor,
By Chas. Isaacs.

Changes and Corrections of Address

Miss E. L. Jardine, The Ladies' Hostil, Kimberley, South Africa.
Mrs. McLaren Morrison, Parkfield, Park Lane, Southwick, Sussex.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge: Members' advertisements, four words a penny. minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

WANTED: Hens, Grey Grosbeak, and Red-legged Cuban Thrush.—Shore-Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: 4 pairs Yellow Budgerigars, 20s. lot, also Cock Crested and Hens Aurita and White-winged Doves.—Shore-Baily, Boyers, House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Ruficauda Finch, Cock, 15s., in breeding condition. True Pair of White Javas (pure white) 20s.; Pair of Bengalese (out-door aviary all winter) 5s.; Cock Green Singing-finch, 4s., perfect condition.—A. J. C. Lowe, 9, Rectory Road, West Bridgford, Notts.

FOR SALE: Eggs from Pure-bred Golden Pheasants, 6s. 6d.; from Gold Cock and Common Hens, 6s. doz., paid. Cock Woodlark wanted.—Mannering, 117, Elsenham Street, Southfields.

WANTED: Hens, Diamond Sparrow, Guttural, Zebra, Pileated and Parrot Finches; Pairs, Green Avadavats and Pintailed Nonpareils. FOR SALE: Parrot Finch, sex not guaranteed.—Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixture for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1s. 6d., with larger proportion of animal matter 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb. Letters only.—W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

BOOKS: For Sale, *The Book of Canaries and Cage Birds* (Cassell and Co.), complete, bound in cloth, gilt edges, good condition. Many coloured plates of Foreign and British Birds and Canaries; out of print, 25s. Butler's *Foreign Finches in Captivity*, 60 coloured plates, as new, 16s. Bradburn's *British Birds*, cloth, 2s. *Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. I., Series iii., 10s. (The late Hayward Mathias's).—Apply, the Hon. Editor.

NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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FOR SALE: Japanese Teal, 10s. a pair; 1 pair Painted Francolins, £8; 2 pairs Scaly Partridges, £4 pair; 8 pairs Demoiselle Cranes, £8 pair; 6 pairs Flamingoes, £12 pair; 1 pair Vulturine Guinea Fowls £12; 2 pairs Mealy Rosellas £6 pair; 1 Linnean Eclectus, £8; 1 Cardinal Eclectus £6—Albert Edward Jamrach, 180, St. George Street, East, London.

FOR SALE: Crowned Cranes, £30 pair; Glaucous Macaws, £20; Linnean Eclectus, £8; Red-collared Lorikeets, £8; pair Mealy Rosellas £6; pair Hooded Parrakeets, £20; pair Brown's Parrakeets £10; pair Red-winged Parrakeets £12; pair Black Cockatoos £40 each; Demoiselle Cranes, £8 pair; Flamingoes £12 pair; Vulturine Guinea-fowls £12 pair; Scaly Partridges (*squamata*), £4 pair; Painted Francolins £8 pair.—Albert Edward Jamrach, 180, St. George Street, East.

FOR SALE: Cock Blue Sugarbird, acclimatised, tame, coming into adult plumage, two guineas, or would exchange for Hen.—Chawner, Lyndhurst.

VERY tame Golden Eagle, feeds from hand, £5 5s.; Curlew, 5s. 6d., Godwit 3s. 6d., Chinese Gander 10s., Japanese Teal, White-face Tree-Duck, Pintail Teal, Mallord, cheap. Tame Plovers, pinioned, 4s.—Frank Dawson-Smith, Nash Rectory, Stony-Stratford.

FOR SALE: Cock Purple Sunbird; Hen Amethyst-rumped Sunbird; Pair Black-spotted Parrakeets, and Cock Ruficauda Finch.—Apply, Miss L. Clare, 194 Coombe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED: Hen Bullfinch; Cock Budgerigar (Green); Hen Goldfinch; also one extra pair Budgerigars (Green)—all for outdoor aviary.—Mrs. Toye, Stanhope, Bideford, N. Devon.

FOR SALE: Very Fine Himalayan Blue Whistling Thrush, in perfect health and condition, and in full Song, £4. WANTED: Hens—Stanley Parrakeet, Bicheno, Orange-breasted Waxbill, Painted Quail.—Miss Peddie Waddell, Balquhalstone, Slamannan, Stirlingshire.

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Having had 15 years practical experience in Foreign Bird-keeping, and knowing their requirements, I have now included together with the Hull Poultry Appliance Works, a Special Department for the Manufacture of Portable Aviaries, Bird Houses, etc.

I also undertake the Building of PERMANENT AVIARIES, of all descriptions, in Wood, Brick, or Ornamental Ironwork, for Private and Public Parks. Also Strong Cages for Animals.

My Works are the only kind in the country with a Department entirely for the Building of this class of work.

Customers' Designs carefully carried out. Estimates Free.

Personal Supervision on all Aviaries Built; Expert Advice; First Class Workmanship Guaranteed; Prompt Delivery.

Intending Purchasers of Aviaries Visited, for out of pocket expenses, which will be refunded on all orders exceeding £10.

Special Terms to Members of the Foreign Bird Club.

Manufacturer of all kinds of Portable Poultry Houses, Kennels, Iron Stables, Rustic Summer Houses, Pheasantry and Eagle Houses. Also Houses for all kinds of Pets. Pigeon Lofts, etc.

N.B.—I am *NOT A FACTOR*, but the *ACTUAL MANUFACTURER*, thus saving middle-men's profits.

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GEORGE ST., HULL.

B. HOLLINS, Proprietor (Member Foreign Bird Club

I shall now be having throughout the coming season large stocks of African, American, and Australian Birds, etc. Customers can rely on all stock being perfectly healthy, as all birds are kept under very sanitary conditions, and are daily under the supervision of myself and Veterinary Surgeon. All birds kept in Large Aviaries, indoor and outdoor (according to nature of specimen). The following practically always on hand, can be despatched same day as order received.

Zebra Finches 7s. 6d. pair, Cordon Bleus 3s. 6d. pair, Crimson Ear Waxbills 2s. pair, Orange Cheeks 2s. 6d. pair, Silverbills 3s. pair, Cutthroats 2s. 6d. pair, Bengalese 3s. 6d. pair, Combassous 2s. 6d pair, Grey Javas 2s. pair, White Javas 9s. pair, Black-headed Nuns 2s. 6d. pair, Tricolours 2s. 6d. pair, White-Heads 3s. 6d. pair, Green Avadavats 5s. pair, Red Avadavats 2s. 6d. pair, Gold Breast Waxbills 3s. pair, Whydahs 3s. 6d. pair, Bronzewing Mannakins 2s. 6d. pair, Saffron Finches 5s. 6d. pair, Red Billed Weavers 2s. 6d. pair, Napoleons 3s. 6d. pair, Russ 3s. pair, Masked 3s. pair, Giants 7s. 6d. pair, Orange Bishops 3s. pair, Fire Finches 3s. 6d. pair, Spice 2s. 6d. pair, Lavenders 5s. pair. Special to Members, 12 Assorted Highly Coloured Birds for 12s. 6d. Cash with Order. Green Singing and Grey Finches 5s. pair, Green Budgerigars 5s. 6d., 7s. 6d., 10s. pair, Yellow 8s. 6d., 12s. 6d. pair. Hen and Cock sold separate. Cockateels 10s. 6d. and 12s. 6d. pair, Mexican Jays 30s. £2 each, Peruvians 30s. each, Red Rosellas 30s., 40s. pair; Redrump Parrakeets 25s., 30s. pair; Madagascar Love Birds, 4s. pair, Red Crested Cardinals 7s. 6d. to 10s. each; Virginian Cardinals, Cocks, 30s., 35s. each; Greens 25s., 30s. each.

All kinds of Pheasants, Peacocks, Swans, Waterfowl (direct from our lake), Storks, Flamingoes, Cranes, Poultry of all descriptions. Siberian Birds, Tortoises, and other pets.

Monkeys, Chimpanzees, Baboons, Apes, Shetland Ponies, Dogs, Turtles, etc.

Large Animals, etc. Elephants, Camels, Emus, Rheas, Ostriches, Bears, Lions, Tigers, Deer, continually on hand.

All kinds of Geese, Pelicans, Cormorant, Sea Birds, Herons, etc. Parrots, Cockatoos, Parrakeets, Quail, Pheasant Eggs, Snakes, Macaws, Pigeons, Doves, Tree Ducks.

JUNE, 1912

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notice to Members.

Important: The Hon. Business Secretary, Mr. H. Willford, will be from home during June, and he asks members to note this and accept it as the reason for delayed replies and acknowledgements, in consequence of correspondence having to be sent on.

Unpaid Subscriptions: There are still a few members who have overlooked their subscriptions for current year, and we trust such will remit same *at once*, as having to make postal application is a needless expense, besides laying a burden on honorary officers which might easily be avoided.

HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Secretary.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Late News.

I recently (June 12th) had the opportunity of seeing a newly landed importation of mostly Indian birds; collected and brought over by Mr. W. Frost; very many interesting and desirable species have been landed, but unfortunately many very rare species, including the Red Sunbird (*Æthopyga setariæ*), were lost after leaving Port Said, owing to inclement weather. At this late date I can only give a rough list and must refer to them again in our next issue.

Robins: Blue-headed (*Adelura cyanocephala*), Brown-backed Indian (*Thamnobia fulicata*), Red-flanked Bush- (*Ianthia ruflata*), Loo-choo (*Erithæcus komadori*), Japanese Redbreast (*E. akahige*).

Redstarts: Blue-fronted (*Ruticilla frontalis*), Indian (*R. rufiventris*), Plumbeous (*R. fuliginosa*), and White-capped (*Chæmorrornis leucocephala*).

Flycatchers: Verditer (*Stoparola melanops*), Blue-breasted (*Cyornis rubeculoides*) and Rufous-bellied Niltava (*Niltava sundara*).

Minivets: Only one species, the short-billed (*Pericrocotus brevirostris*).

Shrikes: Rufous-backed (*Lanius erythronotus*), Brown (*L. cristatus*), Black-headed (*L. nigriceps*), Indian Great Grey (*L. lahtora*); also the Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graculus macii*).

Fruitsuckers: Hardwick's or Blue-winged (*Chloropsis hardwickii*) in true pairs; and Gold-fronted (*C. aurifrons*).

Bulbuls: Brown-eared (*Heximos flavala*); Japanese (*Hypsipetes amaurotis*) and the Indian Black-crested Yellow (*Rubigula flaviventris*).

Thrushes: Tickell's Ouzel (*Merula unicolor*), Chestnut-bellied Rock-Thrush (*Petrophila erythrogastra*) and the Blue Rock-Thrush (*P. cyaneus*).

WOODPECKERS: Pigmy (*Iyngipicus.* species?) Golden-backed (*Brachypternus aurantuis*).

Other interesting birds are Black-headed and Yellow-head Wagtails; Pagoda and Malabar Starlings; Pied and Golden-crested Mynahs; Ruby-throats; Black-headed and Maroon Orioles; Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch, White-bellied Drongo; King Crow; Lanceolated Jay; Wandering Tree-pies; Blue-winged Sivas; Persian Nightingales; Ashy-headed Wood-Swallow; Black-throated Pipit; Golden-eyed Babbler; Pied Wood-chat; Yellow-cheeked, Marsh, Grey, and Green-backed Tits; Indian Skylarks (*Alauda gulgula*); Black-billed Finch-Larks; Crested and Calandra Larks; Jerdon's Accentor; Crested-Black and Eastern Meadow Buntings; Yellow-throated and Cinnamon Sparrows; Himalayan Goldfinch; Sikhim Siskins. Also Indian Green Barbets; Rain and Little Button-Quail; Buff-backed Herons and Pratincoles.

In the rush of going to press, no arrangement or comment is possible, but is reserved for next issue.

Illustration Fund.

The Council acknowledge:

Capt. A. E. Browne	0	2	6
Dr. E. Hopkinson	1	15	0
Mrs. K. Leslie Miller	2	0	0
R. Suggitt	0	10	0

Changes and Corrections of Address

Mrs. M. B. Partridge, Beaufort, Winchester Road, Worthing.

Major B. R. Horsbrugh, c/o Messrs. Cox and Co., 16 Charing Cross, London, W. C.

F. M. Rotch, Park House, Park Road, Teddington.

Miss M. E. Baker, The Elms, Mount Sorrel, Nr. Loughborough.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Americo de Barros, 15c, St. Ann's Villas, Holland Park, London, W.

New Members Elected.

A. W. Adams, 118 Northampton Road, Market Harborough,

W. H. Workman, M.B.O.U., Lismore, Windsor, Belfast,

Hugh Goodacre, Ullesthorpe Court, Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

Otto Puck, Darenth Lodge, Chingford, Essex,

Ernest Albert Strickland, 16 Alma Road, Windsor,

The Bird Market.

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WANTED: Hens of Grey Grosbeak, Brown-winged Blue Grosbeak, and Green Avadavat, also cocks of Yellow-winged Starling and Masked Grassfinch.—W. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

WANTED: Adult Hens of Californian and Rain Quail.—Dr. Gosse, Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Hants.

WANTED: Acclimatised Hen Red-crested Cardinal, also Cock Senegal Dove.—Hamilton Scott, Hamildean, Ipswich.

WANTED: Rare Finches, such as: Painted, Parrot, etc. Also pair of Chinese Painted Quail.—R. Hoffmann, Tower House, Streatham, London, S.W.

WANTED: Hens, Grey Grosbeak, and Red-legged Cuban Thrush.—Shore-Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair of Crimson Finches.—Apply, Hon. Mrs. Bamfylde, Court Hall, North Molton, N. Devon.

FOR SALE: Pair Bronze-wing Pigeons, now nesting, perfect, 30s. Also Chinese Spectacled Laughing Thrush, good condition, outdoors one year, 10s. 6d. Diamond Doves, Cocks, thoroughly acclimatised, 15s. each. Harlequin Doves, hens, out-doors 18 months, 10s. each. Cock Crested Venezuelan Quail, very rare, 20s.—Dr. Gosse, Curtlemead, Beaulieu, Hants.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised Grey Parrot, good talker, says "What's up," "You old rascal," "Scratch you poll," "What's the matter old boy." Also many other words and phrases; whistles and mimics birds well; in perfect condition and health. Also hen Rosy-faced Lovebird, 15s.—Mrs. Lee, Hartwell House, Aylesbury.

FOR SALE: Hen Orange-heeaded Ground Thrush, acclimatized, 63s., Cock Gold-fronted Fruitsucker, 45s.—Lady E. Pennant, Newmarket.

FOR SALE: Privately imported Indigo Finches, cocks only, 12s. 6d., each.—R. Suggitt, Suggitt's Lane, Cleethorpes.

FOR SALE: Illustrations of British Birds, by H. L. Mëyer, in fine condition.—Hamilton Scott, Hamildean, Ipswich.

FOR SALE: Very handsome, hardy, acclimitized, Red-collared Whydah, 30s.; Hen Silver-eared Mesia, 20s.; Hen Cactus Conure, 15s.—Miss Drummond, Mains of Megginch, Errol, Perthshire.

FOR SALE: Hen Brown's Parrakeet, £5. Also Young Budgerigars, 5s. pair. W. Edmunds, Coombe Farm, Langton Matravers, Dorset.

PURE bred Golden Pheasants, 1911, 16s. the pair.—Mrs. Croysdale, Hawke House, Sunbury-on Thames.

TRUE Pair Peach-faced Love-birds, 9 guineas, extraordinary good specimens. Cock Painted Finch, 70s., outside open aviary 12 months, perfect health and plumage. WANTED: Two Hens Blue-winged Love-birds.—Pickles, Stoneyhurst, Morecambe.

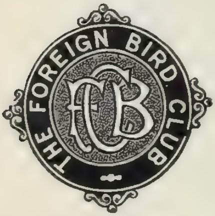
FOR SALE: 4 pairs Yellow Budgerigars, 20s. lot, also Cock Crested and Hens Aurita and White-winged Doves.—Shore-Baily, Boyers, House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Hen Many-colour Parrakeet £5, aviary bred; Red-wing Parrakeet, £5; Cock Tri-colour Parrot Finch, £4.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixture for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1s. 6d., with larger proportion of animal matter 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb. Letters only. —W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

BOOKS: For Sale, *The Book of Canaries and Cage Birds* (Cassell and Co.), complete, bound in cloth, gilt edges, good condition. Many coloured plates of Foreign and British Birds and Canaries; out of print, 25s. Butler's *Foreign Finches in Captivity*, 60 coloured plates, as new, 16s. Bradburn's *British Birds*, cloth, 2s. *Avicultural Magazine*, Vol. I., Series iii., 10s. (The late Hayward Mathias's).—Apply, the Hon. Editor.

NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.



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LARGEST IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS IN THE TRADE.

'Phone 5489 Wall. *Telegraphic Address*: Oiseaux, London.

Gouldian Finches, Glossy Starlings, Troupials, Red Siskins, Parrakeets, Parrots, and Cockatoos, Blue Pies, Sugar-birds, Tanagers, Wrynecks, Blue-throated Warblers, Black Redstarts, Nightingales, Stonechats, Wagtails, Wheatears, and Thousands of Mixed Foreign Finches from 2s. per pair, 9s. dozen Price Lists Free.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notice to Members.

ZOO MEETINGS: Another of these interesting gatherings, have been fixed for Friday, July 26th; club badges to be worn. *Rendezvous*, Small Birds' House 11 a.m. and 2-30 p.m. A reply is requested on the post card accompanying this issue. If the response is sufficient, arrangements will be made so that the members can meet together socially, during the afternoon, in some reserved portion of the Gardens.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: We would remind members that these can only be kept up by liberal response to the Illustration Fund and we trust members will bear this in mind.

ARTICLES FOR THE MAGAZINE: We would remind members that the interest in our pages can only be sustained by contributions from all sections of our members—there are many on our roll who have never contributed to our pages. All should send something during the year—such would mean not merely "sustained" but increased interest —we press this point upon our readers, Many of our members keep British species, and we specially invite articles thereon; our indigenous species are not represented in our pages nearly as much as we would like.

BUSINESS SECRETARY: Mr. Willford will again be away from home, on and off, during the month, and he asks members to accept this as the reason in case of possible delayed replies or acknowledgements.

HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Secretary.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Proposed for Election as Members.

D. Leighton, 189 Croxted Road, West Dulwich, London, S.E.
P. C. Thomasset, F.Z.S., Hawkenbury, Staplehurst, Kent.
H. L. Curry, Lambolle Lodge, Littlehampton.
F. W. Bull, "Bude," Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey.
S. De Lissa, Bittacy House, Mill Hill, London, N.W.
Miss Knatchbull Connell, The Orchard, Brokenhurst, Hants.
By the Hon. Editor

Rev. H. Rundle, Coningsby, Lincoln.
By B. Hollins.

G. Scott Freeland, Hill Rise, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge.
By H. Willford.

New Members Elected.

A. de Barros, 15c, St. Anne's Villas, Holland Park, London, W.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny. minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

COLOURED PLATES : All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne.

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixture for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1s. 6d., with larger proportion of animal matter 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb. Letters only. —W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE: Acclimatised pair of Shamas, feed from hand, £5—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: Handsome pair young Egyptian Geese, 20s.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE: One pair each Bronze-wing, Diamond, and Brush Bronze-wing Doves. All bred here. 20s. pair.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury Wilts.

FOR SALE: Pairs, Indigo Finches, 30s.; Bearded Tits, 15s.; Green Cardinals (Aviary Bred) 35s., or 20s. each; White-crested Quail, 40s ; Saffron Finches (Aviary Bred), 4s. each ; Zebra Finches, 2s . 6d.; Atlas Weavers, 5s. 6d.; Budgerigars, 2s. 6d..—Rattigan, Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.

FOR SALE: True pair Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots, acclimatised, 25s. Several Fine Young Canaries (aviary bred), 2s. 6d. each; also pedigree Persian kittens, 1 guinea, or exchange Foreign Birds.—Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

LARGE STOCK rare foreign birds, all acclimatised, show condition, for Sale. Jackson's Whydah (magnificent pumage and song) £7 10s. Cock Painted Finch, £5; Red-headed Gouldian, £2; pair Pectoral, £3; cocks; Crimson Finch, £2; Ruficauda, 15s.; Mask, 15s.; Zebra, 5s.; Diamond Sparrow, 30s.; pair Grass-finches, 30s.; Native Madeira Chaffinches, 10s. each; Wild Canaries (Teneriffe) 25s. pair; Yellow Eastern Seed Eaters, 7s, 6d. each; Ruddy Waxbills very rare, £4 pair. Dufresne's Waxbills, very rare, £4 pair. Inspection by appointment, also large aviary, 6 feet high, 4 wide, 2 deep, take £2.—Address: P .Owen, 19 St. Loo Mansions, Chelsea.

TANAGERS and Sugar-birds: James Yealland, Havenstreet, I. of W., has always Tanagers and Sugar-birds on hand at moderate prices. I have in stock at present: Black-backed, Festive, Tri-color, and Blue Tanagers; also Green Sugar-birds. Mr. Yealland will try and obtain any South American or West Indian birds customers may desire. Apply as above.

EXCHANGE: Wanted to exchange acclimatized cock Rosella for an acclimatized hen, or would sell, 25/-.—Mrs. C. H. Read, 215, Chesterto Road, Cambridge.

TRUE PAIR Peach-faced Lovebirds, winners, 8 guineas. Perfect specimens outside aviary 12 months, perfect health and Plumage. Wanted, two hens Blue-winged Lovebirds, also one to six hens Zebra Finches.—W. H. Pickles, Stoneyhurst, Morecambe.

WANTED: Yellow-rumped Finch (*Munia flaviprymna*).—F. Howe, 54 Thomas Street, Wellingborough.

WANTED: Adult cock Diamond Dove. For Disposal, three Oriental Roller Pigeons, 3s. each.—Miss R. Alderson, Park House, Worksop

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

BOOKS: For Sale, *The Book of Canaries and Cage Birds* (Cassell and Co.), complete, bound in cloth, gilt edges, good condition. Many coloured plates of Foreign and British Birds and Canaries; out of print, 25s. Bradburn's *British Birds*, cloth, 2s. *Avicultural Magazine,* Vol. I., Series iii., 10s. (The late Hayward Mathias's).—Apply, the Hon. Editor.

D. DeVON & Co.

114 BETHNAL GREEN ROAD, LONDON,

LARGEST IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS IN THE TRADE.

'*Phone* 5489 Wall. *Telegraphic Address*: Oiseaux, London.

Gouldian Finches, Troupials, Red Siskins, Parrakeets, Parrots, and Cockatoos, Blue Pies, Sugar-birds, Tanagers, Zebra Finches, 7s. 6d. pair; Diamond Finches, 14s. pair; Many-colour Parrots, 50s. pair; Nightingales, Stonechats, Wagtails, Wheatears, and Thousands of Mixed Foreign Finches, from 2s. per pair, 9s. Dozen. Price Lists Free.

- - THE - -

ZOO

- HULL. -

If you require birds (Foreign and British), Canaries, all varieties, Parrots, Parrakeets, rare birds, Siberian birds (Goldfinches, hen Bullfinches, direct importation, no second quality sold by me), Water-fowl, Pheasants, Peacocks, Swans, (lakes stocked and every advice given on the keeping of same). Aviaries built and stocked; cages of all descriptions (wood and wire), manufactured by experienced workmen. Animal cages built; accessories, portable aviaries, etc. Steamers arriving daily from Australia, India, America, Africa, Russia, with stock of all descriptions.

A large consignment of the Small Ornamental Finches just arrived.

I have just received the following acclimatized birds —all been in outdoor aviary 18 months.

True pairs of Pennant's, Yellow-collared (Twenty-eight), and Mealy Rosella Parrakeets. Also one cock Splendid Rosella and one hen Red Rosella; one true pair Black-cheeked Lovebirds, and one Blue-headed Parrot Finch.

Send your requirements.

All stock kept under sanitary conditions, guaranteed free from fever, or any disease. Veterinary surgeon on staff. Aviaries visited, and expert advice given on all stock.

. Stock of all descriptions bought or sold on commission, or exchanged.

Seeds, foods, and all kinds of utensils stocked. Whatever you require, write at once. Letters have every attention (orders or otherwise).

B. HOLLINS, Proprietor, The Zoo, Hull.

Patronised by Royalty.

Bird Market, Notes and News.

These notes will be as comprehensive as possible, but the Editor is not often able to make the round of London Market, and their completeness must in a measure depend on the assistance members give him, in the way of supplying notes and accounts of rare and other arrivals which reach them.

The feature of the past month has been the arrival of several consignments of Australian Finches, etc., and these have been offered by the principal dealers. The last consignment consisting of some 1,100 pairs of Zebra Finches, 700 pairs of Diamond Finches, 17 pairs Sydney Waxbills, and 89 pairs of Many-coloured Parrakeets, all of which passed into the hands of Messrs. De Von and Co., which are advertised in our pages.

Mr. Jamrach is offering as under: Rosella, Pennant's, Many-colours, Brown's, Red-winged, All Green, Banded, Lineolated, Blue-crowned Hanging, Alexandrine, and Half-moon Parrakeets. Blue-fronted and Green-cheeked Amazon Parrots, Triton and Yellow-crested Cockatoos. Cockateels, Red-collared Lorikeets, Piping Crows, Crested Pigeons, Bar-shouldered Doves, Smith's Ground Doves, Painted Francolins, Scaly Partridges, Demoiselle and Sarus Cranes, Australian and Ruddy Sheldrakes, Japanese Teal and Alpine Choughs.

Among others, Mr. B. Hollins is offering acclimatised Pennant, Yellow-collar, Mealy Rosella, Splendid and Red Rosella Parrakeets, and Blue-headed Parrot Finch.

During the month the following have been offered by the principal dealers, many of these are still obtainable.

Tanagers and Sugar-birds in fair variety, Indian Sunbirds; Blue and Tree-Pies; Hunting Cissa; Fire-tailed Finches; Mexican Green Jays; Indian and African White-eyes (Zosterops); Shamas and Dhyal Birds; Crested, Hill, and Common Mynahs; Bleeding-heart Pigeons; Maderian Chaffinches; White-crested and White-breasted Jay-Thrushes; Toucans; Orioles; Peach-faced Lovebirds; Dufresne's and Ruddy Waxbills; Rainbow, Nonpariel and Indigo Buntings; Impeyan, Peacock, Pied, Versicolor and other Pheasants; also a good variety of the "Freely Imported Species" Most of the above are still obtainable from the leading dealers.

AUGUST, 1912

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notice to Members.

COPY FOR MAGAZINE : By the time this issue appears, the holiday season will have largely run its course, and also the Breeding Season will be very near its close, and it is requested that as early as possible, our members will tabulate the results and episodes of the Season 1912, and send them to the Hon. Editor, as such form some of the most stimulating, interesting and helpful matter that appears in our Club Journal. We once more remind our readers, that as full details as possible, re nest, eggs, young, demeanour of adults during incubation and rearing of young, with food, treatment and plumage of young, will not only increase the value of such records, but give them permanent value.

MEETINGS AT ZOO. The last of these meetings for 1912 will take place on Saturday, July 21st.—*Rendezvous,* Small Birds' House at 11 a.m. and 2-30 p m. Will those members desirous of being present kindly notify the Hon. Sec of the Social Committee, Mr. W. T. Rogers, Weald View, Ongar Road, Brentwood, Essex—as this allows of some little organisation. We hope to be able to arrange a series of meetings during the winter months, for short Lectures and discussion on matters appertaining to aviculture, of which, notice will duly appear.

LATE ISSUE : The Hon. Editor regrets the late appearance of this issue, but he has been away and a changing address has occasioned unavoidable delay.

HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Secretary.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :—

Dr. P. Gosse	0	10	0
Mrs. G. Henderson	0	11	0
Mrs. E. D. Lee (Zoo-Meeting) ...	0	5	0
Lady Edith Douglas Pennant ...	0	10	0
R. de Quincey Quincey (August Blocks)	1	15	0

Proposed for Election as Members.

Major Frank Johnson, Melrose House, Wilberry Road, Hove, Sussex.
By Walter Swaysland and the Hon. Editor.

T. Hebb, Brooklea, The Downs, Luton, Beds.

Arthur Baddeley, 21 Derby Street, Hulme, Manchester.
By the Hon. Editor.

D. Ezra, 110 Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, S.W.
By A. Ezra and the Hon. Editor.

Miss Alison Barnaby, Oak Lodge, Bitterne, Nr. Southampton.

C. C. Donnell, Hyntle Place, Hintlesham, Nr. Ipswich. *By H. Willford.*

Mrs. Stella Stway, 21, Mount Carmel Chambers, Duke's Lane, Kensington, London, W. *By Miss C. R. Little.*

New Members Elected.

D. Leighton, 189 Croxted Road, West Dulwich, London, S.E.
P. C. Thomasset, F.Z.S., Hawkenbury, Staplehurst, Kent.
H. L. Curry, Lambolle Lodge, Littlehampton.
F. W. Bull, "Bude," Strathearn Road, Sutton, Surrey.
S. De Lissa, Bittacy House, Mill Hill, London, N.W.
Mrs. Knatchbull Connell, The Orchard, Brokenhurst, Hants.
Rev. H. Rundle, Coningsby, Lincoln.
G . Scott Freeland, Hill Rise, Quarry Hill, Tonbridge.

Change of Address.

N. S. O'Railly, to 144, Eastern Road, Kemp Town, Brighton.

The Bird Market.

advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny. minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

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FOR SALE: True pair Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots, acclimatised, 25s. Several Fine Young Canaries (aviary bred), 2s. 6d. each; also pedigree Persian kittens, 1 guinea, or exchange Foreign Birds.—Mrs. Travis, Pedmore Grange, Stourbridge.

FOR SALE : Parrot Finches (aviary bred), perfect condition £5 10s. pair; acclimatised pair of Scarlet Tanagers, have nested. £2 10s.; White Crested Quail (offers); Rosy Pastor 15/6 ; Cuban Trogan £3 10s,; Green Cardinals £1 15s.—Raltigan, Lanarkslea, Cornwall Gardens, London, S.W.

FOR SALE : One Cock Blue Sugar Bird, or would exchange for hen ; Cock Yellow-winged Sugar Bird ; also two or three pairs of acclimatized Gouldian Finches from outdoor aviary, Red and Black Headed, over the moult.—Apply, Hon. Mrs. Bampfylde, Court Hall, North Molton, N. Devon.

FOR SALE : Tri-coloured Tanagers 20/-; Green Sugarbird 12/6 ; Pair Yellow Finches 9/6; Blue Fronted Amazon, finger tame, perfect condition, learning to talk, 40/-.—Apply, 9, Rectory Road, West Bridgford, Notts.

A NEW BIRD BOOK

AVIARIES & AVIARY LIFE,

BY

Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.,

Editor of Bird Notes, etc.

Illustrated with over 200 Photo-reproductions and line figures—Art Linen, Medium 8vo.

12s. 6d., Net.

From the Author, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE : Hen Purple Sugar-bird 70/-; Cock Yellow-wing Sugar-bird 30/-, both in perfect condition, and fully acclimatised ; can be seen by appointment.—Whitmore, 3 Holly Hill, Hampstead.

FOR SALE : Handsome Cock Cockateel, price 7/6.—Miss Allott, The Firs Louth, Lincolnshire.

FOR SALE :—Budgerigars. Thoroughly healthy Green Budgerigars, from garden aviary, young 1/6 each ; adults, cocks 2/-, hens 2/6.—Mrs. Read, 215, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

FOR SALE : Beautiful large healtay outdoor Budgerigars, nesting, Green 5/6, Yellow 7/6 pair. Pair tame adult Cockateels, pets, cock good talker, offers cash or exchange.—F. Bull, "Bude," Sutton, Surrey.

TANAGERS and Sugar-birds : James Yealland, Havenstreet, I. of W. has always Tanagers and Sugar-birds on hand at moderate prices. I have in stock at present : Black-backed, Festive, Tri-çolor, and Blue Tanagers ; also Green Sugar-birds. Mr. Yealland will try and obtain any South American or West Indian birds customers may desire. Apply as above.

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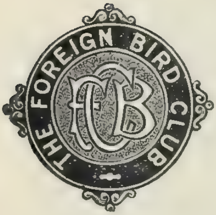

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

We have the largest selection of Foreign Birds in the trade, see our Price List.

D. DeVON & Co

114 BETHNAL GREEN ROAD, LONDON,

Diamond Sparrows, Zebra Finches, Many Colour Parrokeets, Cuban Trojans, Sugar-birds, Tanagers, Parrots, Macaws, Cockatoos, Parrokeets, Rare Barbets, Foreign Jays, Mocking Birds, Nonpareil Bunting and Thousands of Small Foreign Finches.

'Phone 5489 Wall. *Telegraphic Address*: Oiseaux, London.

THE

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HULL.

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Send your requirements.

All stock kept under sanitary conditions, guaranteed free from fever, or any disease. Veterinary surgeon on staff. Aviaries visited, and expert advice given on all stock.

Stock of all descriptions bought or sold on commission, or exchanged.

Seeds, foods, and all kinds of utensils stocked. Whatever you require, write at once. Letters have every attention (orders or otherwise).

B. HOLLINS, Proprietor, The Zoo, Hull.

Patronised by Royalty

Bird Market, Notes and News.

These notes will be as comprehensive as possible, but the Editor is not often able to make the round of London Market, and their completeness must in a measure depend on the assistance members give him, in the way of supplying notes and accounts of rare and other arrivals which reach them.

A tour round the Bird-shops has not revealed any novelty of startling importance, but, generally speaking, the collections on hand are large, varied and interesting.

Mr. Jamrach's stock is, as usual a choice one, and comprises: Pairs of New Guinea Brush-Turkeys (*T. alathemi)*, Painted Francolins (*F. pictus)*, and Scaly Partridges *(Callipepla squamata)*. Pairs also of Chattering Lories (*L. garrulus*), and Red-collared Lorikeets (*S. rubritorques*) ; a Green-cheeked Amazon (*C. viridigena*), and an Aztec Conure. A cage-full of Cape Colies, and another of Red-cheeked do.; some Smith's Bronze-Winged Ground Doves, and a most entertaining Piping Crow do not exhaust the attractiveness of 180 St. George Street.

Mr. Hamlyn, at No. 221, has already disposed of a large portion of his July arrivals, but there is yet abundance for his buyers to choose from viz :—Rainbow Buntings, Yellow-winged Sugar Birds, Madeira Chaffinches, Virginian Cardinals etc ; a representative assortment of Mynahs, Blue Jays, and a good variety of Waterfowl, *Tinamiformes*, *Galliformes*, and *Accipitriformes*. He is expecting a fresh consignment shortly. which will include some West African Crowned Cranes and Pigeons.

Messrs. D. De Von & Co., of 114, Bethnal Road, have a few of their brilliant lot of Many-colored Parrakeets, recently landed, left, and nowadays these birds are not easily replaced. A Green-backed Barbet, a pair of Cuban Trojans *(P. temnurus*), a Mocking Bird, and some Golden Orioles are perhaps the most noticeable species, with cages of Zebra Finches, Diamond Sparrows and pure Yellow Budgies in the background.

The sanitary conditions of Gamage's Zoo cannot fail to impress and delight all true bird-lovers, but, to be candid, the specialist finds little of interest in feathers there. However we noted nice specimens of the Indian Brown Thrush, the Masked Dove, and the Black-headed Gouldian Finch.

In the Malayan collection at Regent's there is (or was) a small lot of Sapphire-Crowned Parrakeets (*Loriculus galgulus*) Mr. Robert Green, of Covent Garden, has been so fortunate as to secure a dozen of the same charming Love-bird (Hanging Parrakeet). The richness of their coloring (green, scarlet, orange and blue) is exhiliarating, and it is to be hoped that fresh attempts at rearing this species may prove successful. Comparative but welcome strangers are the St. Dominique Black-faced Cuban Parrakeet, and the Marsh Flame-bird (Flame or Red-creasted Marshbird).

Mr. C. A. Luer, of 32, East Street, S.E,, deals in thumping big parcels. His present stock comprises Madagascar Love-birds, Quakers and young Ring-necked Parrakeets ; Black and White Bengalese, and Ortolan Buntings. They all seem healthy enough. One wonders what the habitants of South London would do without this enterprising provider. "NEMO."

Many other interesting species are also on offer by the above dealers and others, such as: PARRAKEETS: Pennant's, Rosella, Mealy Rosella Brown's, Tovi, All Green, Half Moon, Banded and Alexandrine. Also Blue-crowned and Cactus Conures ; Dufresne's, Blue- and Yellow-fronted Amazon Parrots ; Alpine Choughs ; Smith's Ground and Bar-shouldered Doves ; Crested Pigeons, White Peafowl, many species of Waterfowl, Macaws, Cockatoos, Partridges, etc. Also a large assortment of the "Freely Imported Species." W.T.P.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notice to Members.

THE SHOW SEASON: Members are requested to carefully note Mr. Townsend's notices on page 60.

CORRESPONDENCE: In consequence of the absence from home of the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, and Editor, some delay may have occurred, and members are asked to accept this as the cause of any replies, acknowledgements, etc., not yet to hand. For the same reason acknowledgements of donations, proposals of new members, etc., may be incomplete, but all deficiencies will be made good in our next issue. The same cause also accounts for the absence of "Bird Market Notes and News."

HENRY WILLFORD, *Hon. Bus. Secretary.*
WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*

Post Mortem Reports

(*Continued from Page* 260).

JAVA SPARROW (♀). (Miss Sybil Mundy, Derby). Cause of death: Pneumonia.

MEALY ROSELLA (♀). (Wm. Shore-Baily, Wilts.). Cause of death: Pneumonia.

CUT-THROAT (♀). (M. J. Flannery, Nenagh). Cause of death: Peritonitis, due to a burst egg in the oviduct.

YOUNG YELLOW BUDGERIGAR. (G. E. Haggie, Oxford). Cause of death: Enteritis.

GOLDEN-FRONTED HONEYSUCKER. (The Hon. W. B. Wrottesley, Hemel Hempstead. The liver was enlarged and undergoing fatty degeneration.

SPICEBIRD (♀) (Fred Dobbie, 12 Inverleith Gardens, Edinburgh). Cause of death: Pneumonia.

Answered by post: Wesley T. Page; Lady Kathleen Pilkington; Mrs. L. Turner-Turner.

New Members Elected.

Major Frank Johnson, Melrose House, Wilberry Road, Hove, Sussex.
T. Hebb, Brooklea, The Downs, Luton, Beds.
Arthur Baddeley, 21 Derby Street, Hulme, Manchester.
D. Ezra, 110 Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, London, S.W.
Miss Alison Barnaby, Oak Lodge, Bitterne, Nr. Southampton.
C. C. Donnell, Hyntle Place, Hintlesham, Nr. Ipswich.
Mrs. Stella Storey, 21, Mount Carmel Chambers, Duke's Lane, Kensington London, W.

Proposed for Election as Members.

W. A. Bainbridge, Hazelwood, Thorpe, Surrey. *By A. C. Young.*
J. T. Carr, Blythewood, Deramere Drive, Malone Road, Belfast. *By W. H. Workman.*
W. H. Butler, Rosebank, Tyne Road, Stanley, S.O. Co. Durham *By A. C. Young.*

The Coming Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following Shows. Other Shows receiving same will be announced later.

The Show Committee wish to point out to members that by supporting the Shows advertised in the Magazine they are helping the Club, as all advertisements are paid for, and the Shows advertised are in every way deserving of support.

Members are reminded that they must put F.B.C. after each entry, as it is impossible for a secretary who does not know anything about our membership to give a complete list to the Judge otherwise.

NORWICH. Corn Hall, October 10th and 11th. Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. Robson. Schedules from Mr. R. Roll, 62 Ashby Street, Norwich.

CLAPHAM. October 11th and 12th. Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. Fulljames. Schedules from Mr. A. R. Coe, 18 Calderwale Road, Clapham, S.W.

LEEDS. Salem Lecture Hall. October, 12th. Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. H. Roe. Schedules from Mr. W. A. Wilson, 75 Bayswater Mount, Roundhay, Leeds.

As errors often creep into schedules, the medal and cup rules, under which awards are made, are given below.

S. M. TOWNSEND.
Honorary Exhibitional Secretary

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

Regulations as to Club Medals and Cup.

Made by the Show Committee of the Council.

1.—All Medals shall be given for the Best Bird.

2.—Members exhibiting at Shows where Club Medals are given, *must* place the initials "F.B.C." after each entry on the entry form, and request the Secretary to insert the same in the Show Catalogue.

3.—No member shall win more than two Medals in one season—one silver and one bronze—or more than one Medal at the same Show.

4.—No Medal shall be given at any Show, unless the Classification and the name of the Judge be first submitted to and approved by the Committee. Preference shall be given to Shows at which the Club's Classification is adopted and one of the Club's Judges appointed.

5.—No Medal shall be given at any Show, where less than three Classes for Foreign Birds are provided, and no Silver Medal where less than six Classes. The Show Committee reserve the right of waiving this number at their discretion.

6.—Medals given at Open Shows only. Birds in Members' Classes shall not compete.

(*a*) The Provincial Silver Cup will be offered for Competition at any Provincial Show having our patronage where six or more classes are given.

8.—The Cups are to be won three times (not necessarily in succession), before becoming the property of the winner, and to be given for most points gained by a member throughout the season at Shows where the Cups are offered for competition.

9.—Members competing for the Cup must nominate not more than three birds, by writing the word "Cup" after each competing bird. If members nominate more than three birds they will be disqualified for that Show, and only birds in the money will count for points.

10.—No Medal or Cup shall be awarded at any Show unless at least three members compete, and points for the Cup will not be counted, if more than one class is cancelled.

11.—Points for the Cup to count as follows: 1st, 6 points; 2nd, 5 points; and one point off for each lower award. Should a tie take place the member taking the most prize money to win the special.

12.—Any point arising that is not provided for in the above will be dealt with by the Show Committee.

S. M. TOWNSEND.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny. minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE: Healthy Cock Blue-winged Green Fruitsucker (*Chloropsis hardwickii*) from a garden aviary, acclimatised, and in good order, £3 3s.—Miss Chawner, Lyndhurst, Hants.

WANTED: Acclimatised *Hen* Pintail Nonpareil, and *Cock* Green Amaduvade, from garden aviary preferred.—Miss Chawner, Lyndhurst, Hants.

FOR SALE: 2 Cock Pennant Parrakeets, 50s. each; 2 Hen Rosella Parrakeets, 25s. each; 4 Black-cheeked Lovebirds, 10s. 6d. each.; 4 Cock and 1 Hen Red-rumped Parrakeets, 10s. each; 1 pair Green Budgerigars, 4s.; 1 pair Lavender Finches, 5s, or would accept 11 guineas or near offer for the lot. All in out-door aviary; both pairs of Pennant's and Rosellas reared by birds in 1910 and 1911.—Marriner, Denton, Ben Rhydding.

A NEW BIRD BOOK

AVIARIES & AVIARY LIFE,

BY

Wesley T. Page, F.Z.S.,

Editor of Bird Notes, etc.

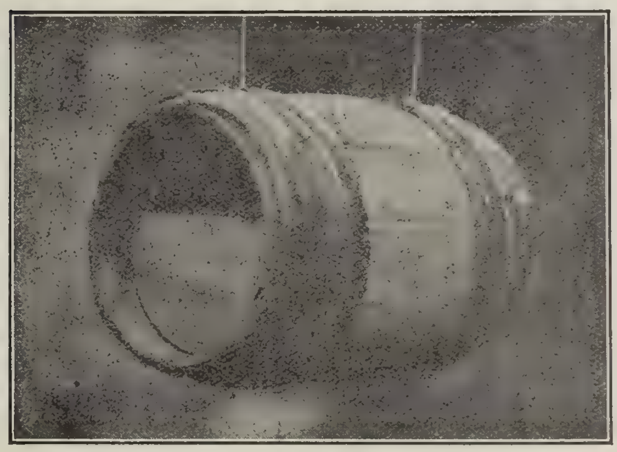
Illustrated with over 200 Photo-reproductions and line figures—Art Linen, Medium 8vo.

12s. 6d., Net.

From the Author, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

FOR SALE: 8 Weavers: 3 Cock Orange Bishops, and 2 cock Grenadiers, 5/- each; 3 Cock Red-billed, 2/- each or 27/6 lot. 2 Saffron Finches 3/6 each; 1 cock Red-crested Cardinal 7/6; 1 cock Bullfinch 3/6; 1 pair Golden-crowned Conures 42/-; 1 pair Blue-winged Lovebirds 10/6; 1 pair Madagascar Lovebirds; 1 hen Madagascar Lovebird 3/-; 5 Bengalese 7/6 lot; 8 Sharp-tailed Finches 2/- each or 12/- lot; 1 pair St. Helena Waxbills 7/6; 1 pair African Grey Waxbills 5/-; 1 pair Orange-cheeked Waxbills 5/-; 1 hen Orange-breasted Waxbills 2/-; 1 cock Fire Finch 2/6; 1 cock Jacarini Finch 7/6; 1 hen Combassou 2/-; 1 Tricolour Nun 2/-; 1 White-headed Nun 2/-; 5 Avadavats (4 cocks, 1 hen) 2/- each or 7/6 lot; Zebra Finches (3 cocks, 2 hens) 3/6 each or 15/- lot; 1 pair Bronze-winged Pigeons 35/-; 2 young Senegal Doves 3/6 each; 1 pair Golden Pheasants 25/-; 1 cock Golden Pheasant 12/6. All the above are acclimatised, having been kept in an out-door aviary. Would accept reasonable offer for the lot.—W. J. Lewis, Costorphine, Ryde, I. of W.



NEST BARRELS for Parrakeets, Lovebirds, etc., specially made for the purpose, in three sizes—small, medium, and large.—Apply, W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE : Two splendid Rosellas, bred in unheated aviary.—W. H. Workman, Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast.

COLOURED PLATES : All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

AVIARIES: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixture for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates. Insectile mixture, 1s. 6d., with larger proportion of animal matter 2s. and 2s. 6d. per lb. Letters only. —W. T. Page, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

FOR SALE : Pairs Rosellas 35/-, Black-cheeked Lovebirds 30/-, Cockateels 10/-, Yellow Budgerigars 5/-, Diamond Doves 20/-, Californian Quails 20/-, Squamata Quails 25/- ; all bred here this summer. Also very fine pair Shamas, tame and acclimatized £4.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyers House, Westbury, Wilts.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE : Hen Rock Sparrow, Zebra Finches 3/- each, Olive Finches 12/- each, all from out-door aviaries ; wanted from ditto cock or hen Cuba Finch in exchange for ditto (to change blood), hen Blue-winged Lovebird, hen Siskin (any variety).—Captain Reeve, Leadenham, Lincoln.

Write for Free Price Lists to . . .

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114 BETHNAL GREEN ROAD, LONDON,

Bee Eaters £3, Cuban Trogan £3 10s., Diamond Sparrows 12/6 pair, some a little rough 7/- pair ; Zebra Finches 7/6 pair, few rough feather 5/- pair ; 3 Georgeous Coloured Weavers 4/6 each ; thousands of Mixed Birds in stock from 1/- each, 9/- dozen.

'Phone 5489 *Wall.* *Telegraphic Address:* Oiseaux, London.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notice to Members.

BUSINESS SEC. AND HON. TREASURER: We announce with much regret the resignation of Mr. Willford, of the above offices, in the following terms: "I much regret having to resign my post "as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the F.B.C., but I have not "the time to do the work as I should like, as it is, I cannot get "sufficient time for other study, and released of these duties, I shall "then be able, no doubt, to render more help in other ways.

The Council had no alternative but to accept the resignation with deep regret, and desire to express their appreciation of the able services he has rendered the Club during the past two years; services rendered at the cost of much self-denial in other directions. The Council on behalf of the Club tender grateful thanks for his ready co-operation in the management of club affairs, and also to note with much pleasure that he will still assist on the Council and with copy and photos for the Magazine. Mr. Willford remains an ex-officio member of the Council till the end of the year. In view of a Continental trip and a possible holiday abroad Mr. Willford asked to be relieved at once. This has been done, and in accordance with the rules, the Council have elected Mr. Sydney Williams, F.Z.S., to the vacant offices, and also Mrs. E. A. H. Hartley, to take the place of the late H. W. Mathias, on the Council.

ILLUSTRATIONS: We much regret there is no coloured plate with this issue, but unavoidable delay has arisen in connection with the hand-colouring, and we have reluctantly been compelled to hold the plate over till November issue. We also regret the mishap with the October frontispiece; this arose owing to experiments with special papers, and the Editor directing it to be printed on a semi-matt paper. A loose reprint of the plate is sent out with this issue, to replace the aforesaid faulty frontispiece; members can easily make the change or leave it for the binder to do so.

CLUB DINNER: The attention of members is directed to the notice in the Magazine (page 286) re this matter. We urge it upon the attention of members, as we feel it will tend to the welfare of the club if one or more such meetings can be arranged during the winter months.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SYDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. & Treas.*

Illustration Fund.

The Committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donations :—

	£	s.	d.
Hon. Mrs. Bampfylde	1	0	0
Rev. J. M. Paterson	0	10	0
Miss S. Mundy	0	10	0
Mrs. Easton Scott	1	1	0

Changes and Corrections of Address.

B. C. Thomasset, to The Manor House, Ashmansworth, Newbury.
Americo de Barros, to 63 rue Victoria, Sao-Paulo, Brazil.
Hon. W. B. Wrottesley, to Seisdon, Staplecross, Near Hawkhurst.
Major B. R. Horsbrugh, to 11, Pembroke Square, Kensington, London, W.

Errata.

Under "Members Elected" in September issue (inset page 60):—
"Mrs. Stella Storey" should read "Mrs. Stella Stoney."
"C. C. Donnell" should read "O. O. Donnell."

New Members Elected.

W. A. Bainbridge, Hazelwood, Thorpe, Surrey.
J. T. Carr, Blythewood, Deramere Drive, Malone Road, Belfast.
W. H. Butler, Rosebank, Tyne Road, Stanley, S.O. Co. Durham

Proposed for Election as Members.

Horace P. Gloyns, Kew Cottage, Holmesdale Road, Hampton Wick, Surrey. *By the Hon. Editor.*

The Coming Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted patronage to the following shows, in addition to those already announced.

Members are reminded that they must write the word "Cup" on the entry form, after the name of each of the three birds they wish to nominate for competition, and that they must put F.B.C. after each of their entries.

MANCHESTER. Belle Vue Gardens, October 27th and 28th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge: Mr. C. Houlton. Schedules from Mr. H. Boothman, 10 Parker Street, Levenshulme, Manchester.

SHEFFIELD. Cutlers' Hall, November 1st and 2nd. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge: Mr. C. Houlton. Schedules from Mr. T. Bishop, 69, Alexandra Road, Heely, Sheffield.

PORTSMOUTH. November 5th and 6th. Classification for four classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge Mr. H. Norman. Schedules from Messrs. King and Joiner, 80, Stubbington Avenue, North End, Portsmouth.

NOTTINGHAM. November 9th, and 11th, Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge Mr. G. E. Weston. Schedules from Mr. G. E. Wilkinson, 86 Linton Boulevard, Nottingham.

The Bird Market.

Advertisements must be prepaid and reach the Editorial Secretary by the 10th of the month
Charge : Members' advertisements, four words a penny. minimum 4d.
Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED: 1911 Cock Parrot Finches, in Breeding condition; 2 Cock Cordons; Pair Green Avadavats.—M. Hawke, Wighill, Tadcaster.

FOR SALE: Acclimatized Cock Virginian Cardinal in outdoor aviary, £1; Black-headed Lovebird, 15s.—M. Hawke, Wighill, Tadcaster.

FOR SALE: Golden Pheasants, Californian Crested Quail, Cockateels, all in finest condition, from outdoor aviary. No reasonable offer refused.—Mrs. Crcysdale, Hawke House, Sunbury-on-Thames.

COLOURED PLATES: All the plates that have been issued up to the present, can be obtained uncut for framing at 1/- each, with the exception of "A Beautiful Aviary" which is 1/6.

Apply to The PUBLISHER, Market Place, Ashbourne

AVIARIES AND BIRD FOODS: Aviaries Planned and their erection and furnishing supervised at reasonable charges. Aviaries visited and expert advice given. Existing aviaries overhauled, rearranged, and refurnished. Supervision of aviaries undertaken by monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly visits, at terms to be mutually agreed upon. In response to numerous requests I am willing to supply all kinds of bird seeds and foods from my own stock. Also special mixtures for Parrots, Parrakeets, etc., at current rates INSECTILE MIXTURE, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb.

FOR SALE: Young cocks, Golden Pheasants, and Californian Quails, 7s. 6d. each; Olive Finch, 10s.; Alario Finch, 7s. 6d.; Diamond Sparrow, 10s.; pairs Zebra Finches, 7s. 6d.; Red-billed Weavers, 5s.—A. Sutcliffe, Field House, Grimsby.

FOR SALE: Pair of Jamaica Doves (*Zenaida amabitis*) and their two young full-grown, 25s. Hen Virginian Cardinal, 35s. All from outdoor aviary.—Thwaites, 94, Beaconsfield Road, Brighton.

FOR SALE: Aviary-bred Cuba Finches, and Blue-breasted Waxbills, 30s. per pair; also acclimatised hen Crimson Finch, 30s. all in good condition.—Hon. Mrs. Bampfylde, Court Hall, North Molten, N. Devon.

FOR SALE: Pair Blue-wing Grass Parrakeets, rare; cock Turquoisine Parrakeet; pair Red Rosella Parrakeets; hen Black-cheeked Lovebird, or would exchange the latter for a cock.—Miss Clare, 194 Cocmbe Lane, Wimbledon, S.W.

BOOKS: For Sale, The Book of Canaries and Cage Birds (Cassell and Co.), complete, cloth, gilt edges, good condition, many coloured plates of British and Foreign Birds, and Canaries, out of print, 25s. Bradburn's British Birds, 2s.; "Avicultural Magazine," Vol. I., Series III., 10s.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

CLUB BADGES: In solid silver, picked out out in blue and white enamel, 3s. 6d. each.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

D. DeVON & Co.

114 BETHNAL GREEN ROAD, LONDON,

Bee Eaters, 50s., one with damaged leg 10s.; Cuban Trogan £3 10s.; Diamond Sparrows, 12s. 6d. pair, some a little rough 7s. pair; Zebra Finches 7s. 6d. pair, few rough in feather 5s. pair; 3 species, Gorgeous Coloured Weavers 4s. 6d. each; thousands of Mixed Birds in stock from 1s. each, 9s. dozen.

"LIFE,"

A PERFECT FOOD FOR ALL BRITISH AND FOREIGN INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS—A CAREFULLY PREPARED AND WELL BALANCED STOCK FOOD.

Advertiser has kept in perfect condition all kinds of Soft-billed birds, from and including, the tiny Gold-crested Wren, up to and including the Nightjar, on "LIFE" food and live insects.

All species of Waxbills, Parrot Finches, Zebra Finches, etc., will readily partake of this food, in addition to their seed diet.

"LIFE" is a most useful food for birds having young to rear. 1s. 10d. per lb., post free. Larger quantities at cheaper rates. Large sample sent free.

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WALSH'S

Giant Spanish Canary Seed, sun dried, machine cleaned, 14 lbs. 3s. 6d., 26s. per cwt. Genuine Turkish Canary Seed, 14 lbs.; 2s. 9d., 18s. cwt. German Rape, English Rape, Linseed, and Niger Seed, all 3d. lb., 14 lbs. 3s. 6d.; Italian White Millett 3½d. lb., 14 lbs. 3s. 6d.; Indian Millet and Red Millet 2½d. lb., 14 lbs. 2s. 6d., Hemp Seed, guaranteed sound and sweet, 2½ lb., 14 lbs. 2s. 6d. Sunflower Seed, black or white, Safflower Seed, all 3½d. lb., 14 lbs. 3s. 6d. Maw Seed, 9d. lb. Gold of Pleasure Seed, 4d. lb., 7 lbs. 2s. Walsh's condition seed, a pick-me-up for Canaries, 5d. lb., 7 lbs. 2s. 6d. Special Quality Sweet—

GERMAN SUMMER RAPE,

as used by all the principal Roller Breeders 5d. lb., 7 lbs. 2s. 6d.

FRESHLY GATHERED WILD SEEDS.

Teazle Seed, Charlock Seed, Plaintain Seed, and Walsh's original mixed Wild Seed, all 6d. quart, 1s. 9d. gallon. Walsh's renowned "PECKO," a wonderful conditioner for British Seedeaters, 2d. oz., 2s. lb.

WALSH'S RELIABLE FOODS.

Wasp Grubs, alive or cured, 2s. lb; sample box 7d. Mealworms, 650 1s., 1,300 2s., 5s. lb. Live White Gentles, 1,000 7d., 2s. 6d. lb. Ants' Eggs 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. lb. Dried Flies 2s. 6d. lb. Silkworm Pupæ 1s. 6d. lb. Insectivorous Food 1s. 6d. Flaked Yolk of Egg, 4s. lb., Crissel, 4d. lb. Cuttlefish Bone 1s. lb. Lark and Thrush Food 6d. lb. Pea, Bean, Rice, Oat, and Biscuit Meal, all 2½d. lb.

WALSH'S CELEBRATED EGG BREAD.

Will rear strong healthy, and vigorous youngsters from the nest. This is undoubtedly one of the purest and most nourishing foods yet offered; used by all the principal Breeders, 1s. 6d. lb., 3 lbs. 4s.; sample tin 8d., post free.

WALSH'S MATCHLESS COLOUR FOODS.

The colouring qualities are far in advance of any other yet offered to the Fancy. Pure Tasteless Pepper, 1s. 6d. lb. Egg Bread with colour, 1s. 6d. lb. Insectivorous Food, with colour, 1s. 6d. lb.; sample tins 8d., post free. Hot Natal Cayenne, 2s. lb.; Sulphate of Iron, 6d. lb. Prompt delivery. Satisfaction guaranteed. New illustrated catalogue post free on application.

WALSH, BIRD FOOD SPECIALIST **BLACKBURN.**

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A NEW BIRD BOOK

AVIARIES & AVARY LIFE,

BY

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Editor of Bird Notes, etc.

Illustrated with over 200 Photo-reproductions and line figures—Art Linen, Medium 8vo.

12s. 6d., Net.

From the Author, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

Bird Market Notes and News.

The most notable event this month is the dispersal of Mons. Pauvvels' fine collection of Birds. Some other rare and pleasing birds are, and have been offered, including :

Melba Finches, Black-faced Waxbills, Vinaceous Firefinches, Chilian Siskins and Violet-eared Waxbills.

From the principal dealers are obtainable—

Parrots : Grand Eclectus, Blue-fronted Amazon, Salle's Amazon. Green-cheeked Amazon, Golden shouldered Amazon, Red-crowned Amazon,

Parrakeets ; Pennant's, Rossellas, Banded, Tori, Yellow-cheeked, Red-rumps, etc.

Conures : St. Thomas's All Green, Red-bellied, Mexican, Blue-crowned, etc.

Cockatoos : Sulphur-crested, White-crested, Triton, Java, etc.

Also in good variety the usual Small Ornamental Finches, Tanagers, Sugar-birds, Barbets, Bee Eaters, Pigeons, Doves, Cardinals, Weavers, Whydahs, Nonpareils, Hangnests, Troupials, Montezuma and other Quails, Wrynecks, Rollers, Hoopoes, Rheas, Sun Bittern, Francolins, and many others.

In all a good and varied variety of interesting species are obtainable.

W. T. PAGE.

The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL: In accordance with the rules three members retire from the Council annually by seniority—these being the Countess of Winchilsea, Hon. W. B. Wrottesley, F.Z.S., and Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh, all of whom are eligible for re-election. Nominations of members willing to serve on the Council must be sent in not later than the 1st of December, next, so that voting papers may be sent out with the December issue of "Bird Notes."

CLUB DINNER: It was decided at a Council Meeting held on November 2nd, and unanimously agreed that a club dinner be held in February or March next, date to be determined hereafter, at Gatti's, Holborn Resturant, or other central hotel. A Wednesday or Thursday being considered the more convenient days of the week. We should be glad to have members' views upon this topic, which should be sent to Mr. W. T. Rogers, (Hon. Sec. Social Committee), Weald View, Ongar-road, Brentwood, Essex.

BREEDING MEDALS: Medals have been awarded as under during the current season:

Species:—

Palm Tanager (*Tanagra p., melanoptera*)—Lady Edith D. Pennant.
Pope Cardinal (*Paroaria larvata)*—Lady Edith D. Pennant.
Grenadier Weaver (*Euplectes oryx*) R. S. de Quincey Quincey.
Napoleon Weaver (*Pyromelana afra*)—Lady Poltimore.
Black-headed Weaver (*Hyphantornis melanocephala*—Lady Poltimore.
Hooded Siskin (*Chrysomitris cucullata*)—Dr. M. Amsler.
Scarlet Tanager (*Rhamphocœlus brasilus*)—Dr. J. Easton Scott.
Black-headed Mannikin (*Munia atricapilla*)—Dr. J. Easton Scott.
Black-headed Grosbeak (*Hedymeles melanocephalus*) -W. E. Teschemaker.
Grey Grosbeak (*Spermophila grisea*)—Wesley T. Page.
Queen Alexandra Parrakeet (*Spathopterus alexandræ*)—Hubert D. Astley.
Red-sided Eclectus Parrot (*Eclectus pectoralis*)—Miss M. Drummond.

Hybrids:—

Swainson's Lorikeet + Chattering Lory—Mrs. E. A. Hartley.
Squamata + Californian Quail—W. Shore Baily.
Red-collared + Black-throated Lorikeet—R. Pauvvels.
Grey-winged Ouzel + Argentine Blackbird—R. Suggitt.

The above medals have been distributed. If any of the above have not been received the Secretary should be notified at once.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

Post Mortem Reports.

Continued from page 324.

Diamond Sparrow (♀). (The Hon. Mary C. Hawke). Tadcaster. Cause of death, acute enteritis.

Canary. (Mrs. Toye, N. Devon)). Acute atrophy of liver.

Virginian Cardinal. (Mrs. K. Connell, The Orchard, Brockenhurst). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Yellow-winged Parrakeet. (Horace P. Gloyns, Hampton-Wick). Cause of death, pneumonia.

John Dobbie, Leith. N.B.—No bird arrived.

Black-cheeked Lovebird (♀). (W. Shore-Bailey, Wilts.) Cause of death, pneumonia.

Grey Parrot (♂). (A. Baddeley, Manchester). Cause of death, catarrhal roup.

Amadavade (♂). (Harvey C. Curry, Littlehampton). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Gouldian Finch (♂) (Harvey C. Curry, Littlehampton). Cause of death, liver disease and jaundice.

Bronzewing Mannikin. (G. Scott Freeland, Tonbridge). Cause of death, pneumonia.

Answered by post:—Mrs. Marshall, Dr. H. Legh de Legh, C. P. Sutton.

H. GRAY, M.R.C.V.S.

Illustration Fund.

The committee acknowledge with best thanks the following donation:—

	£	s.	d.
Bailey, W. Shore	1	0	0

Changes and Corrections of Address.

Countess of Winchelsea and Nottingham to Haverholme Priory, Sleaford.

E. Hopkinson, D.S.O., M.A., M.B., to Bathurst, Gambia, West Africa.

G. E Haggie to Bruncombe, Foxcombe Hill, Oxford.

H. Newcome Wright, Ravenshill, Huddersfield.

New Member Elected.

Horace P. Gloyns, Kew Cottage, Holmesdale Road, Hampton Wick, Surrey.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Mrs. Gott, Meetwood, Garth, Leeds.	*By R. E. Simpson.*
Mrs. Storey, Summerhill, Tarporley, Cheshire.	*By H. Willford.*
B. Bramfoot, 41, Cromwell Road, Grimsby.	*By A. Sutcliffe.*
Mrs. G. Christie, Newton House, Elgin, N.B.	
Mrs. C. Villiers, Antwicks Manor, Letcombe Regis, Wantage.	
R. A. Dyott, Freeford, Lichfield.	*By the Hon. Editor.*

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following Shows, in addition to those already mentioned. Members are reminded that they must write the word "Cup" on the entry form, after the name of each of the three birds they wish to nominate for competition and that they must put F.B.C. after each of their entries.

L.C.B.A. Royal Horticultural Hall, November 28th, 29th, and 30th. Classification for twelve classes for Foreign Birds. Two Silver Medals and London Cup for competition. Judge, Mr. F. Finn. Schedules from Mr. W. H. Mugford, 1 Strathearn Road, Wimbledon, S.W.

BRADFORD Central Baths Hall, December 6th, 7th, and 9th. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge, Mr. F. Finn. Schedules from Mr. H. Hill, 15 Settle Terrace, Thornton Lane, Bradford.

LUTON. December 11th, Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge, Mr. J. Frostick. Schedules from Mr. E. Bloomfield, 22, Hitchin Road, Luton.

GATESHEAD. December 13th and 14th, Classification for five Classes for Foreign Birds. One Bronze Medal. Judge, Mr. J. Robson. Schedules from Mr. J. G. Grearson, 24 Newman Terrace, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

EDINBURGH. Scottish National Show, December 31st, and January 1st, 1913. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for Competition. Judge, Mr. J. F. Dewar. Schedules from Mr. J. R. Meikle, 51 Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

The Show Committee desire to thank Mr. A. Ezra for presenting a guinea to the Special Prize Fund for our Members at the L.C.B.A. Show. It will be given as follows: 7s. for the best conditioned bird in each of the three sections, viz., Parrots, Seed-eaters, and Insectivorous.

S. M. TOWNSEND,
Hon. Exhibitional Sec.,

3, Swift Street,
Fulham, S.W.

Medal Regulations.

The F.B.C. Medal for Breeding a Species or Hybrid for the first time in captivity in Great Britain, will be awarded on the following conditions only.

As detailed an account of the success as possible must be sent for publication in *Bird Notes*.

SPECIES: The young must be reared to be independent of their parents. When hatched, and reared by artificial means, or by foster-parents, the record is not eligible for the medal; except in the case of parasitic species.

HYBRIDS: For any cross not previously reared in captivity, between any two species; the domestic Canary as one of the parents alone being excepted. A cross between any two species is only once recognized, e.g., Parson Finch + Long-tailed Grassfinch and Long-tailed Grass + Parson Finch are reckoned as the same Hybrid, and whichever was secured first would hold the record. Foster parents barred.

The Bird Market.

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Non-Members, three words a penny, minimum 6d,

MEMBERS' ADVERTISEMENTS.

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BOOKS: For Sale, The Book of Canaries and Cage Birds (Cassell and Co.), complete, cloth, gilt edges, good condition, many coloured plates of British and Foreign Birds, and Canaries, out of print, 25s. Bradburn's British Birds, 2s.; "Avicultural Magazine," Vol. I., Series III., 10s.—Apply the Hon. Editor.

WANTED: A True Pair of either Pennants, Stanleys, or Barnards, from out-door aviary. FOR SALE: True Pair Rosellas, from out-door aviary, have reared nine young, £2.—Carr, Deramore Drive, Belfast.

WANTED: Cock Sikhim Siskin; Hen Grey Grosbeak; Indigo and Pileated Finches. FOR SALE: Yellow Budgerigars, adults 7s 6d.; young 5s. pair.—Wm. Shore Baily, Boyer House, Westbury, Wilts.

WANTED: Acclimatised Hens, Many-coloured Parrakeet.—Apply the Editor, Glenfield, Graham Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey.

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The Foreign Bird Club.

Notices to Members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: We would remind members that subscriptions become due on January 1st, and that it is essential for the facile working of the club these should be promptly sent in. We would remark that the work of the club makes a heavy drain on the time of our *honorary officials,* and that this is given ungrudgingly, but that they ought not to have the task *imposed* upon them, as has been the case this year (spending their time and the club's funds) *of making written application for overlooked subscriptions.* We urge all to obviate this by immediately responding to the notice on front of this issue. The Hon. Business Secretary will be pleased to supply Banker's orders to those members willing to make use of them.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL: No nominations having been sent in for the Council, the three retiring members—Countess of Winchilsea and Nottingham; Hon. W. B. Wrottesley; and Dr. J. E. R. McDonagh—are duly re-elected.

ILLUSTRATION FUND: Unless the response to this fund is a little more liberal, during the coming year, than it has been this year, we fear the number of our half-tone illustrations must be materially reduced.

CORRESPONDENCE: A member, who wishes, for the present, to remain *incognito,* writes as follows:—

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Our Correspondence section is open to Members, but we would remind them, that if all wait for the first article to appear, there will be no result.

THE HON. EDITOR: After serving the Club for six years, Mr. Page has again accepted office for another period of three years, *and he asks of the members an even increased support to that given him in the past, in all sections of the work*;, that if possible the Magazine may retain its present standing in every particular; he specially desires the first year (1913) of another term may be marked by the ingathering of *at least* 100 *New Members,* and he is convinced that if a *united and universal effort* be made, we shall more than achieve our aim. Will each Member assist? Specimen copies of the Magazine will be sent to any address sent in, in the name of the Member sending in such, and the Hon. Bus. Secretary, Mr. S. Williams will send supplies of our leaflet "Objects of the Club," to any member willing to pass them on to avicultural friends and acquaintances.

WESLEY T. PAGE, *Hon. Editor.*
SIDNEY WILLIAMS, *Hon. Bus. Sec. and Treas.*

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Changes and Corrections of Address.

G. W. Lythgoe, to 173 Clifton Street, Old Trafford, Manchester.
Lord W. Cecil, should be 23 Queen's Gate Gardens, London, S.W.
H. Newcome Wright, to Ravenshill, Huddersfield.
W. Baxby, to 6, Chesterfield Road, Dronfield, Sheffield.
W. Goodfellow, to The Poplars, Kettering.
J. Ford, to 22 Palace Street, Berwick-on-Tweed.

Errata.

Re. November "Bird Notes": "Mrs. C. Villers, proposed by the Hon Editor,' should read—*Viscountess C. Villiers, proposed* by *Lady Edith Douglas Pennant.*

New Members Elected.

Mrs. Gott, Meetwood, Garth, Leeds.
Mrs. Storey, Summerhill, Tarporley, Cheshire.
B. Branfoot, 41, Cromwell Road, Grimsby.
Mrs. G. Christie, Newton House, Elgin, N.B.
Viscountess C. Villiers, Antwicks Manor, Letcombe Regis, Wantage.
R. A. Dyott, Freeford, Lichfield.

Proposed for Election as Members.

Marquis of Tavistock, Wooburn Abbey, Beds.
By the Hon. and Rev. Canon F. G. Dutton.

B. B. Ferrar, M.D., F.Z.S., Superintendent, The Royal Zoological Society's Gardens, Phœnix Park, Dublin.
By the Hon. Editor.

J. L. Grossmith, The Grange, Bickley, Kent.
By A. Silver.

August Fockelmann, Handels-Tierpark, Hamburg-Grossborstel, Niendorferweg.
By the Hon. Editor.

Henry A. Swayne, 29, Percy Palace, Dublin, Ireland.
By the Hon. Editor.

Mrs. Stanley Gardiner, "Whitethorn," Barton Road, Cambridge.
By Miss K. Webb.

Mrs. E. C. Morgan, 17 York House, Church Street, Kensington, London, W.
By Mrs. Stella Stoney.

Mr. Montgomery, Rubana, Burton Road, Hornsea, Yorks.
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G. D. Tilley, F.(N.Y.)Z.S., Darien, Connecticut, U.S.A.
By S. Williams.

Mrs. M. Knowles, Ednaston Lodge, Nr. Derby.
By Hon. Mary C. Hawke.

The Show Season.

The Show Committee have granted our patronage to the following Show, in addition to those already announced. Members are reminded that they must write the word "Cup" on the entry form, after the name of each of the three birds they wish to nominate for competition, and that they must put F.B.C. after each of their entries.

EDINBURGH. Scottish National Show, December 31st and January 1st, 1913. Classification for six classes for Foreign Birds. One Silver Medal and Provincial Cup for competition. Judge: Mr. J. F. Dewar. Schedules from Mr. J. R. Meikle, 51, Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

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THE JOURNAL OF THE FOREIGN BIRD CLUB.

Edited by **WESLEY T. PAGE, F.Z.S.**

FEBRUARY, 1912.

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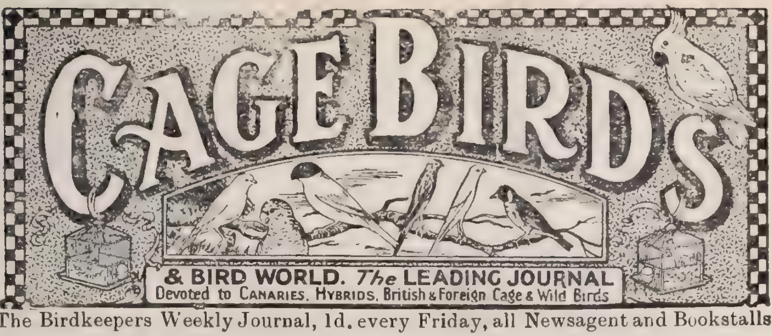
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